1, Nov. 1940 to 31, Dec. 1940 cont
from K-9-17.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

BATHURST. H.M.A.S. allotted signal letters VLRB Ship proceeds to sea 14/12. (A.C.N.B. 1340Z/12).

KOMATA. Raider Attack. My 0054Z/9 attack by raider on shipping off Nouru. Oar marked KOMATA washed up on Ocean Island 12/12. (A.C.N.B. 1829Z/12)

Your 0054/9. Request details of damage to shipping and port facilities. (N.I.D.4 to A.C.N.B. 2208/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MADRID. Left Las Palmas 1900/11 in northerly direction. (F.O.C.N.A. to N.A. Station 0825/12). Description of MADRID. (F.O.C.N.A. 1033/12) Informing S/M's on patrol area B. (V.A.S. 1104/12).

ITHAKA. Left with 720 tons of munitions from Germany for Persian Govt. via Batoum. (Macrae, Galatez 1140/12).

SALZBURG. Departure in ballast. (Macrae Galatz. 1140/12).

WINNETOU. My 0754/10. WINNETOU returned Kobe 12/12. Appears to have been under repair Upper post painted dark grey. (Capt: O.S., Singapore, 1148Z/12).

BRAKE. German tanker without name supposed to be BRAKE arrived Ferrol 11/12, believed came from Vigo. (Coruna 2000/12, 2030/12).

HEINRICH ARP. HEINRICH ARP took provisions and 100 tons bunkers 11/12 now painted black including funnel and is ready to sail. German Embassy motor car arrived at Ferrol morning of 11/12 left night of 11/12 probably with orders for vessels. (Guyatt S.Coruna. 2000/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAURO CROCHE.

MAURO CROCHE mentioned used to be named GALLIPOLI.
(Barcelona, 1746/12 to Fairmiso, London).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

CARDITA.
(attacked 11/12.)

Am escorting CARDITA to Clyde then proceeding Liverpool, E.T.A. Clyde 0140/13. (CHELSEA, 1930/12).

TOWA.
(torpedoed 11/12.)

Dutch 5419 tons. Your 1757/11. Have picked up 16 survivors in 2 boats from TOWA at 0100 in position 058 49'N 010 09'W. Master reports ship torpedoed at 1900/11, also Commodore's ship name ending in LEIGH and 1 tanker hit at 1300/11 but tanker not sunk. Am proceeding with my force to R/V. RODNEY.
(MATABELE, 0631/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

ROTORUA.
TOWA.
(torpedoed 11/12.)

Proceed forthwith to assistance of ROTORUA in position 58° 56'N., 11° 20'W. at 1300/11 carrying out search on passage for TOWA and an unknown tanker in position 58° 49'N., 10° 09'W at 1900/11. Tug SUPERMAN is being sailed from Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1115/12 to BRIGAND).

Departure Port ZA 1710/12 Fleet tug BRIGAND in execution of your 1115/12.
(Trelawney 1711/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Sailed Tug MARAUDER from Cambeltown at 1420 to assistance of TOWA in position 58° 49'N., 10° 09'W and ROTORUA in position 58° 56'N., 11° 20'W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1501/12).

102 survivors of ROTORUA landed Stornoway from EBOR WYKE, VARANGA and ALSEY.
(N.O.I.C. Stornaway 1838/12).

Submarines Reported.
0150.

Attack U/Boat reported by a/c in 50.21N., 05.51W at 0150 steering 008°.
(C.in C. W.A. 0246/12 to MONTGOMERY).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0150. (Contd.) One Sunderland arriving vicinity of 58.58 N., 11.20 W. about 1200/12 to search for U/Boat.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0330/12 to Orkneys and Shetlands).

1007. 1108. 52°-153° N., 17°- 20°W., say 300' W of Dingle Bay, very indefinite.
(D.S.464).

1330. Am investigating oil patch in 55-45N., 7-52 W.
(A/C, 1330/12 to Aldergrove).

1614. D.F. probable U/Boat, 55°- 56° N., 10°- 15° N. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1657/12).

1520. Unidentified Submarine 55.32N., 6.59W at 1520/12 course 110° reported P/272. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1910/12) (D.D.I.C. 2147/12).

2007. D.F. probable U/Boat vicinity of Boylagh Bay 54.50N., 8.30 W., reliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 2135/12 and 2149/12 to N.A. Dublin) Reported by A/C.

1145. About 540 N., 190- 210W., position indefinite (D.S.465).

1235. No fix, repetition of1145/12 position indefinite. (D.S. 465).

2020. 51°-52°N., W. of 17° W. position indefinite (D.S.465).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

2014. 54°- 55° N., 11°- 14° W. position indefinite. (D.S.465).

Ferrol. Spanish s.s. SANTA CLARA arrived Ferrol from South Spain reports having seen several submarines probably coming to escort German merchant ships. (Guyath.S.Coruna. 2000/12 to Adty).

Search from Milford Haven. Information. U/Boat reported in position 50° 50'N., 07° 10'W at 2320/10 and 50° 21'N., 05° 51'W at 0150/12 steering 080° . All available A/S Trawlers and Yachts are to R/V in position 0000 Hartland Point 8 miles as arranged by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and search area within 8 miles of the coast between Hartland Point and Trevose Head being North of Hartland Point by 0800/13. Other Trawlers and Destroyers will be searching to S.W. of this area. Aircraft are co-operating Eight destroyers may be expected to pass North-eastwards through area during the early hours tomorrow Friday.
(C.in C. W.A. 1155/12 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.O.I.C. Swansea.)

Sailed ROSEMARY, DERBY COUNTY to carry out purport of C.in C. W.A. 1155/12.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1716/12).

Search from Dartmouth. U/Boat reported in position 50° 50'N., 07° 10' W at 2320/10 and 50° 21'N 05° 51'W at 0150/12 steering 080°. Available A/S trawlers are to be sailed as soon as ready to search area to Northward of line joining Longships and Sevenstones to 50° 25'N. Other trawlers will be searching within 10 miles of North coast of Cornwall. Destroyers TRIUMPHANT and JERSEY will be operating to North and West of Trawler search. Aircraft are co-operating.
Eight destroyers may be expected to pass north eastwards through area during the night.
(C.in C. W.A. 1158/12 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Search from Dartmouth. (Contd.)

My 1158. The one available A/S trawler from each of Falmouth and Plymouth are to R/V off Lizard as arranged by Cdr. A/P Plymouth and proceed to search within 10 miles of North Coast of Cornwall as far as Trevose Head. (C.in C. W.A. 1200/12).

Your 1158/12. Sailed LORD ESSENDEN, KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and PEARL. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1516/12 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.

Italian.
1 or 2 near Azores.
1 in about 49° N., to 50° N., 17° W to 19° W, at 1741/11 outward bound.
1 in about 50° N., 12° W. at 1553/11 homeward bound.
1 probably west of Ireland.
1 in area 53° N., to 54° 19° W., to 20° W.

German.
1 in Cape de Verde Islands area.
1 may arrive Lorient tonight.
1 in about 52° N., 17° W. to 20° W.
1 in about 54° N., 17° W. to 18° W.
1 in about 54° N., 20° W.
1 commencing patrol may be about 55° N., 10° W. to 12° W.
1 in about 59° N., to 60° N., 15° W. to 17° W.
1 attacked convoy near 59° N., 10° W. to 11° W.
1300/11 and 1900/11.
(D.D.I.C. 1341/12). (V.A.S. 1552/12).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1400.

Am over enemy submarine in 50.26N., 5.20 W., course 1100 have dropped 2 bombs. (A/C T.O.R. 1400/2 to PEMBROKE) A/C attacked U/Boat in 50.26N., 5.20W., at 1407.
(C.in C. W.A. 1422/12 to MONTGOMERY).

Proceed as soon as possible after 1530 when channel is swept to attack U/Boat in 50.26N., 05.20W at 1407.
(A.C.W.A. 1450/12 to JERSEY, French L/C LE TRIUMPHANT) Ditto to WRESTLER.
(C.in C. W.A. 1455/12).

Report of air attack. First bomb dropped 1,000 ft., second attack 700 ft. bomb failed to release. 1 direct hit with bomb, explosion seen. S/M submerged after first bomb dropped no oil or air bubbles seen. 2 periscopes observed and bomb appeared direct hit between them. White framework seen on surface after attack.
(Plymouth 1900/12 to H.Q. C.C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

N.C.S. Iceland — Consider Naval Control Service Station urgently required for Seyfisfjord. Resons. Proposed Arrangements. (F.O. Iceland, 1732/13

Defence of U.K.

Cromarty. — No 1. mine loop Cromarty laid 13.12.1940. (C.O.C./M Base, Nigg, 1126/13)

DELUGE — At 1130/13. (D.C. 1149/13)

At 2330/13. (D.C. 2345/13)

Movements

QUEEN ELIZABETH — Re Lights. (QUEEN ELIZABETH 0130/13, C. in C., W.A., 0322/13) My 1950/12. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be late. Orders (C. in C., W.A., 1124/13 to SOUTHDOWN) Estimated position at 0800 (R.A.(D) H.F. 1150/13)

Weather permitting 3 Blenheims will meet you as fighter escort and 1 Hudson as anti-submarine escort at dawn 14/12. (1956/13)

Your 1747/12. Anticipated that QUEEN ELIZABETH will be approximately 2 hours late at position off Tiumpan Head 14/12. (QUEEN ELIZABETH, 2347/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

SCOTTISH
LOCH OSKAIG
ALLOUETTE
IMPERALIST — Western Patrol A/S trawlers. Leave Rothesay at 0900/14 for Gibraltar. Route. (F.O.C.N.F 0920/13)

M.L. 124 — Arrived sheltering. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0900/13)

M.L. 162 — Arrived Fishguard 0515 for shelter. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0931/13)

NORTHWIND
LA HELPOHENE — Your 1927/12 both ships arrived. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1000/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

/Dover.....

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Dover Dispositions	For night of 13/14 Dec. Weather permitting. (V.A.Dover, 1242/13)
WORCESTER	C. in C., Nore 1440/12. WORCESTER to sail for Rosyth 1300/14, reporting E.T.A. Rosyth to F.O.I.C. Harwich before sailing. If Rosyth closed due to mining, WORCESTER is to proceed to Scapa direct reporting E.T.A. as soon as known. Route as in my 1258/13. (Capt. D. 16 1257/13 to WORCESTER)
Portsmouth, Night Movements	No patrols except in Eastern Approaches. No passages, no convoys. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1307/13)
Northern Patrol	Trawlers line occupied tonight 13/12. (3 trawlers) (A.C.O.S. 1536/13)
M.A.S.B's	Request be informed of anticipated date of sailing these M.A.S.B's (C. in C., W.A. 1516/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
KASHMIR	On parting company with QUEEN ELIZABETH proceed with KIPLING, PUNJABI and JUPITER to carry out an A/S sweep through Q.Z.F. 15 and along N coast Cornwall. U-Boat was bombed in position 50° 26' N., 05° 20' W., at 1407/12. Continuous air search being maintained weather permitting. A/S trawlers, and yachts searching A. in Q.Z.F. 15. Within ten miles of coast between Lands End and Trevose Head. North of a line Longships to Sevenstones to 50° 25' N. On completion of sweep continue hunt in area between coast of Cornwall and 7° W. (C. in C., W.A., 1246/13 to KASHMIR)
WOLFE CHITRAL	My 1000/12. WOLFE's sailing delayed until 1600/14. CHITRAL to pass through 60° 50' N., 15° 00' W., at 1600/16. (1944/13)

/RAMILLIES.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

RAMILLIES

Admty. 1719/6 and my 1852/10 request sail RAMILLIES escorted by FERNIE, CLEVELAND, CATTISTOCK and HOLDERNESS to Plymouth as soon as ready. (C. in C., W.A., 2336/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Operations

Operation P.V.I.

P.V.One will be carried out from 2100 to 2300- 13. Aircraft will drop flares between these times. (C. in C., Nore 1020/13 to F.O.i/c Harwich, F.O.i/c Yarmouth, Cdre. Sheerness EGRET, VORTIGERN, EGLINTON, SHEARWATER, Admiralty 16 group, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.B.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Proposed Operation

239. Your 1743/10 Paragraph 4. G.O.C. could spare eight of his Ski platoons if reliefs asked for by Norwegian Naval Liaison Officer from Norwegian Army Command are available. The other eight and their officer are required as Ski instructors in Iceland. Four Meteorologists including two W/T operators removed from Jan Mayer available here also. Numbers to complete could be found locally and made available after short period of training. Officer not available Iceland. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1307/13 to Admty.)

Operation P.V.I.

My 1020/13 P.V.One cancelled on account of weather. (C. in C., Nore, 1645/13 to Admiralty, F.O.I.C's Harwich, Yarmouth, Commodore Sheerness, EGRET, VORTIGERN, EGLINTON, SHEARWATER.)

M.T.B. Operation

Weather permitting M.T.B's are to operate between Flushing and Ostend tonight Friday. If considered practicable Flushing roads should be visited. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E., may be attacked without challenge. Operation P.V. one will start at 2100 M.T.B's to be clear by that time. (C. in C., Nore, 1032/13)

Harwich 13/12 Departures M.T.Bs 29,32,34 at 1935. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1946/13 to Admty)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

WHITEBEAR

Request may be sailed to arrived Tobermory a.m. 20/12. Netherlands S/M No 14 escorted by WHITEBEAR to arrive Dundee 22/12. (Capt. (S) 7, 1117/13 to Capt (S) 3) C. in C., W.A., 1110/13 On reaching W end Q.Z.F. 18 proceed in company to 170° Bishop Rock 23 miles thence TUNA to patrol by route ordered. WHITEBEAR to Plymouth and reports 2 hours after parting company. A/S ships hunting to E 007° W. (Capt (S) 2, 1609/13 to TUNA, WHITEBEAR) Your 1110/13 received. Position (details), request instructions. (? WHITEBEAR, 1615/13 to C. in C., W.A.) WHITEBEAR escorting TUNA reported by Lundy Is. 1545/13 steering S.W. Evidently not received my 1110/13 (C. in C., W.A., 1740/13 to KASHMIR)
Following is repetition of my 1110/13 (C. in C., W.A., 1820/13 to WHITEBEAR)
Repetition of my 1615/13. Your 1110/13 received. (WHITEBEAR, 2130/13 to C. in C., W.A.)

Positions and Movements

For following 24 hours at 0800/14. (V.A.S. 1918/13)

British Air Activity

Patrols today

CENTO in lieu of MUGGY STAB (C. in C., Rosyth 1016/13)

Attacks for night 13/14.

AP/667/12. Available A/C of No 22 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M targets in No 1 basin at Bordeaux. (H.Q.C.C. 1310/13)

AP/664 13/12 P.R.U. reports six possibly seven S/Ms present at Lorient. Positions. Available A/C of 53,59 and 217 Sqdns. to attack tonight submarines and Naval Dockyard. Details of Bombs. (H.Q.C.C. 1235/13)

Enemy Air Activity

Frater Mine Depot

Air raid on night of 11-12/12 at Frater mine depot and Elson caused very slight damage. (Supt. C.E., Dockyard, Portsmouth 1445/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Thames and Medway

Thames and Medway closed owing to mines. (F.O.I.C. London. 0403/13)

One low flying hostile A/C suspected minelating plotted at 0303 over or near Malle Spitway East Swin and Barrow Deep (positions) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0527/13)

My 0403/13 Traffic in the river to the West of Southend Pier may be resumed as far as Southend. (F.O.I.C. London, 1005/13)

My 0403/13. Vessels may proceed between London River and the Medway via the Switchway. Precautions. (F.O.I.C. London 1130/13)

Cancel my 1130/13. No ship to navigate in River Thames below Scars Elbow. (F.O.I.C. London. 1441/13)

Pyrotechnics etc., in Thames Estuary on night 12/13 very large number of mines were laid from aircraft near Thames Boom. These have been reported in other signals. Pyrotechnics were are follows: 1620/13

Cancel my 1 30/13/12. Switchways has not yet been swept and not to be used. (F.O.I.C. London, 2028/13)

Thameshaven

At 2005 one parachute mine exploded in air off Thameshaven jetty, a second parachute mine fell in River 1 cable S. No 6 jetty Thameshaven and exploded at 2045. Third and fourth explosions in water 1 cable S. Shell Haven at 2047. First and second explosions parachutes were seen. No damage to ships or jetties. (F.O.I.C. London. 2100/13)

My 2100/13. Further investigation shows that no sweeping will be necessary. (F.O.I.C. London, 2220/13)

/Sheerness.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Cont.

Sheerness Mines Dropped

My 0412 and 0833 mine dropped at 0455 (position) additional information now to hand gives further reports of 5 mines as follows. Further mines have been reported in Boom gates but not yet certain whether Thames or Medway Gate is involved. Further signal will be sent. (X.D.O.Sheerness 1155/13)

Sheerness

SUNLIGHT reports one mine detonated at 1957/12 by S.A. gear 231° B.3 buoy 2 miles ST. OLIVE reports one red mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 0555/13 280° E Spile Buoy 1.7 miles. Detonation accompanied by prolonged flash. (Capt M/S Sheerness, 1356/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Nore

Following received from ALOHA, via Foulness "A mine about 8 ft long and 3 ft. in -Diameter lies in position on Foulness Sands 1 mile S.E. (Mag) from West Buxey Buoy" 1931/13 ends. 2221/13

Humber

Humber open to navigation. (F.O.Humber 0738/13 amended 0810/13)

WINDSOR

Sheerness for Chatham 13/12 arrival WINDSOR in tow ST MELLONS and escorted by WIDGEON at 2010/12. (C. in C., Nore, 0910/13)

Minesweeping

My 1950/12 four M/S trawlers to be detailed to carry out exploratory sweep Q.Z.Y. 161 to position 000° Trevose Head 5 miles. Trawlers from Falmouth sweeping southern portion to this point. (C. in C., W.A., 1330/13 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
Your 1617/10.

Acoustic Mines

Safety cannot be ensured but best to avoid speeds at which vibration is heavy. C. in C., Nore has ordered M.L.s to proceed at more than 11 and less than 16 knots, recommending 1400 revs. For M.G.B's and fast M.B's a speed less than 20 and more than the lower critical is suggested. Zig zag at high speed is likely to explode mines the only safety being the chance of causing explosion at a distence rather than under. (D.M.S. 1915/13 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TARONGA.

Reported that Wilhelmsen vessel TARONGA now being fitted out as auxiliary cruiser at Oslo. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1559/13).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PRUDENT (Rescue tug) — In Lough Swilly main engine broken down will proceed as soon as repaired. Ship leaking badly fore and aft crews quarters flooded out. Repairs must be carried out before ship is seaworthy again. Urgent. (PRUDENT 0740/13).

Your 0740/13. When main engine is repaired return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1204/13).

SCOTT. — Propose sail from Lough Foyle for Belfast A.M. 14/12 in view of Admty 1825/12. (SCOTT, 1004/13 to R.A. Minelayers).

KELLY. — My 1117/12 (sailing for Immingham Sunday) KELLY slightly damaged during D G trials programme will be delayed about three days. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1014/13).

NELSON to dock. — A.S. Rosyth 1945/12. Propose NELSON Docks 24/12. Intend shifting my Flag to RODNEY for this period. (C.in C. H.F. 1036/13.).

Your 1036/13. Approved. (D.O.D.(H) 2120/13 to C.in C. H.F.).

OTTAWA. — Repairs completed 12/12. Ship sailed for Greenock a.m./13. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1048/13).

KALYPSO VERGOTTI — De KALYPSO VERGOTTI S.O.S. Ends. 1050/13 no further particulars. (Valentia Radio T.H.I. 1210/13).

FLEUR DE LYS, CAMPANULA — Your 1140/13 have detached FLEUR DE LYS whose A/S is broken down to escort CAMPANULA with defect in main engine to Londonderry. Escort for present consists of LEITH, WILD SWAN, PERIWINKLE. Intend detail WILD SWAN, PERIWINKLE for PEGASUS. (LEITH, 1445/13 to C.in C. W.A.)

DALEBY. — My 2255/4. DALEBY refloated 1519/13. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1535/13).

E. VAN VLANDEREEN. — My 1139/11 E. VAN VLANDEREEN delayed by collision. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1602/13).

EMPIRE ELK. — Sailed Tug SUPERMAN from Campbeltown 1530/13 to assistance of EMPIRE ELK in place of PRUDENT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1610/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ Position of ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

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E. VAN VLANDEREEN. — My 1130/11 E. VAN VLANDEREEN delayed by collision. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1062/13).

EMPIRE ELK. — Sailed Tug SUPERMAN from Campbeltown 1530/13 to assistance of EMPIRE ELK in place of PRUDENT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1610/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ Position of ....

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

Position of EMPIRE ELK at 1127/13, 56° 12'N. 08° 38'W. Engines broken down. (P.O.I.C. Greenock, 2112/13 to SUPERMAN)

TYSA.

TYSA steering gear broken cannot repair require tug assistance position 58° 5"N. 6°2'W. (Wick Radio, 1745/13).

Following read Wick Radio from TYSA My 1745/13 steering gear temporarily repaired no more assistance required ship under control.
(Base Ship Scapa, T.O.R. 2339/13).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
H.X.91.

Estimated position 0900/13.
(D.T.D. 1159/13 to C.in C. H.F.)

COMANCHE has arrived, Liverpool. This leaves only one ship, MEDARA, British tanker, 7931 tons, unaccounted for (D.O.R. 13/12).

26 ships of H.X.91 have arrived, 16 British, 5 Norwegian, 2 Dutch, 2 Greek, 1 Belgian. (D.S. 465 13/12).

W.N.52.

Arrived 0715/13. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0725/10).

O.G.47.

Route to avoid U/Boats.
(C.in C. W.A. 1334/13 to LEITH, WILDSWAN etc.)

F.N.52.

Postponed 24 hours, fog.
(C.in C. Nore 0922/13 C.in C. Rosyth 1725/13).

F.N.57.

Arrived 1330/13. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1331/13

H.X.89.

10 hours late at R/V delayed by weather on 24/25. One straggler, engine trouble, all ships arrived.
(D.T.D. 1407/13).

O.B.O.253.

Sailed 0145/13. Escort VANQUISHER, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O.Oban 1305/13).

W.N.54.

Code "Chitty". Clyde portion 1 ship escort HIGH WALPOLE. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1234/13).

S.L.S.57.

Sailing telegram. Extract. (D.T.D. 1838/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.(Contd.)

W.N.53.	My 1315/11/12. W.N.53 delayed 25 hours. Now due Duncansby 1130/16. After E.N. 40 has passed Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.C.S. is requested to sail FLEETWOOD to join W.N.53 off Duncansby Head. (C.in C. Rosyth 0957/13 to FLEETWOOD A.C.C.S.)
H.N.53.	1929/13. H.M.Trawlers MORRIS DANCE. DRANGEY, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 2044/13).
F.S.50.	Number 13/12 departure SUTTON at 0945 to join F.S.59 thence Harwich. (F.O.Number 1009/13).
S.L.57.	PEGASUS and two Corvettes are to remain with convoy until necessary to meet S.L.57 in position 53 07'N., 16 50'W at 1000/16. Remainder of escort remain with convoy till further orders. When clear of convoy WILD SWAN report Corvettes detailed for PEGASUS. (C.in C.W.A. 1140/13 to LEITH. WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, PEGASUS).
S.L.57.	My 1534/11. Amend R/V with S.L.57 S to read 53° 07' N., 16° 50' W at 1000/16. (C.in C.W.A.1148/13 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).
F.N.59.	F.N.59 GUILLEMOT. Break off from Convoy at daylight and return to Harwich. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1246/13 to GUILLEMOT).
S.C.14.	Proceed direct to 55° 30'N., and sweep towards North Channel. Search for S.C. 14, 21 ships Commodore Master ATHENIC. BROKE and LA MALOUINE pass by V/S to trawlers in company. (C.in C.W.A. 1518/13 to BROKE SALADIN SARDONYX LA MALOUINE).
F.S.57.	H.M.Trawler NOTTS COUNTY arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1509/13 to N.C.S.O. Thames. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

O.B.259.	My 1613/13 (Sailing ARABIS for O.B.M. 259) correct O.B.M.259 to read O.B.259. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 2350/13).
O.B.259.	Sailed O.B.M.259 (a) 1653/13 (b) H.M.Trawler LEEDS UNITED (c) 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven. 1719/13).
H.G.49.	Request you will issue necessary orders to LEITH for bringing back H.G.49. (C.in C.W.A. 1648/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)
S.C.15.	My p.c.s. at 1900/13 G.M.T. 052° 10'N., 035° 33'W (?240° 090°) 10. Request R/V S.C.15. (CILICIA, 1910/13 to F.O.C.N.P.)
M.G.B.47.	Intend sailing M.G.B.47 for Fowey at 1100/14. E.T.A. position 173° Pecarro Head 2 point 5 miles 1500/14. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2215/13 to Adty etc.)
S.L.57.	S.L.57 is to keep well clear to Westward of U/B reported in position 49° 50'N., 20° 55'W at 1857/13. (C.in C. W.A. 2342/13 to CANTON).
Colliers.	Request you will sail SAPPHIRE and 3 French Trawlers to arrive Sand Head Buoy at 0700/15, where they will be joined by 2 small Colliers from Dover. Fighter protection from daylight 15th until arrival at Southend will be asked for. Route to be followed as in my 1302/6/12. (C.in C. Nore 1150/13 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
10.M/V's.	My 2239/11. Sailed 10.M.V's including 2 Tankers and one Tug for Hartland Gap. Escorts CAPE COMORIN, ST. CATHAN and VICTRIX. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1649/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5.A. W.S.5.A.(slow) sails Bar L.V. 1600/18 R.V. Bristol Channel Ship 53° 38'N., 3° 48'W at 1700/18. R/V Clyde and Belfast 180° 5 miles Oversay 0930/19. W.S.5.A. (Fast) sails Bar L.V. 0400/19. R/V Clyde Ships 000 degs. 8 miles Alliacarry 1600/19 (Secret positions) (N.C.S.O.Liverpool 1711/13 to Adty).

BERA SVEADROTT CASTOR. Your 1231/15/11. (Reporting safe conduct for Swedish Tankers BERA, SVEADROTT AND CASTOR). This matter has been dealt with between M.E.W. and the Swedish Legation in London.
(Hd. of M. 1709/13 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Motor Ships East Coast. Cancel my 2227/11 Ministry of Shipping requested to rearrange temporarily its programme to ensure that minumum number of ocean going motor ships will discharge on East Coast South of Firth of Forth, also that as many motor coasting vessels as possible will be transferred from East to West coast trading. There will remain a number of motor ships essential for maintaining supplies on East Coast and, subject to Admiralty agreement, these may proceed. Important that ocean going motor ships should keep their engine revolutions as low as possible, consistent with navigability in waters where accoustic mines are suspected. Motor coasting vessels, when approaching harbours and particularly between Humber light vessel and Grimsby roads and also between Sunk Light Vessel and Southend, to reduce their engine revolutions to half speed, or as low as safety permits, although this may entail temporarily parting from convoy. Number of ocean going motor tankers coming to East Coast ports will be decided as at present by direct consultation between the Oil Board and Admiralty. Subject to above motor vessels on East Coast now being held should be allowed to proceed.
(D.T.D. 2212/13 to C.in C's and N.C.S.O's).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration", AVANT-GARDE intercepted.

My 0946/9/12. FORESTER expected time of arrival Gibraltar 0130/14 with French M/V AVANT-GARDE intercepted off Cape Tresforces at 0930/13. (F.O.C.N.A. 1244/13 to Admty) Vessels arrived 0145/14 (F.O.C.N.A. 0202/14).

Your 0946/9. Was "RATION" carried out yesterday, 12/12. If so request you will report the result of the operation and whether French ships BAMAKO and AVANT-GARDE, reported passing from West to East escorted by a French Armed Trawler in S.O. (I) Gibraltar's 1633/12 were intercepted. (D.O.D. (F) 1255/13 to F.O.C.N.A).

Your 1255/13. Yes see my 1244/13. Convoy was shadowed until dark last night at which time they were still in Spanish territorial waters and escorted. (AVANT-GARDE was intercepted alone outside Spanish territorial waters off Cape Tresforces at 0930/13. French escort returning with other French merchant vessels is in straits now steering to westward keeping close to Moroccan shore. BAMAKO has not been located to-day Friday. Force now returning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1440/13 to Adty).

From your 1440/13 it does not appear that a ship which was actually being escorted at the time has been brought in. If not, "RATION" is to be continued until a test case has been carried out. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2100/13 to F.O.C.N.A.).

OREGON.

Intend sailing French ship OREGON for Gibraltar for onward routing to Toulon routed in accordance with Admty 1913/28/10, 0900/15, speed 11 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0938/13).

French Submarines.

French submarines LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE ARETHUSE, ARCHIMEDE, escorted by French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY expected to pass east west between 1100 and 1300 to-morrow Saturday, destination probably Casablanca. They should not be molested. (F.O.C.N.A. 1603/13 to N.A. Stn).

/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Italian Submarines. Tangier.

Tangier reports both Italian submarines have sailed (F.O.C.N.A. 0654/13). Consul General, Tangier, reports Italian U boats sailed 0430. Patrol outside territorial waters off Tangier reports having seen nothing. All available air and surface forces searching (F.O.C.N.A., 0800/13) 2 Italian U boats sailed from Tangier at 0430 (F.O.C.N.A. 0904/13 to SHEFFIELD PROTEUS).

CYMBELINE.

(Sunk by raider in 20°N, 35°W on 2/9) Wounded seamen landed St. Nazsire by REKUM (See German Merchant Ships).

Azores Patrol.

C. in C. Med. 1627/11 TRIDENT who will relieve CACHALOT on patrol will herself be due to leave patrol about (date) Intend TRIDENT should be relieved by one of 8th S/M F. (V.A.S. 1121/13 to Admty).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 Italian submarines left Tangier 0330 hrs. 13/12. Routine A.S. patrols in Straits. Four A.S. searches. Two reccos. to east co-operative with A.C.N.A. in bringing in French merchant vessels not in Spanish territorial waters. Ship seized AVANT-GARDE. Area covered 1°West of 6° 50'W. (200 Group 1700/13).

South Atlantic.

HAWKINS.

Sailed in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1257/11 (VENOMOUS, 11032/13 to Admty etc)

KOSMOS.

Reports received that Norwegian whaler KOSMOS has been captured by a raider and is now detained at Dakar. Report whether recent arrivals from Dakar have any knowledge. (D.D.I.C. 1128/13 to S.O.I Freetown).

ASTURIAS

Left Capetown 1230/13 for square L.32 in accordance your 1019/11 to R.A.S.A.D. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 13033/13 to C in C S.A).

/CUBA.....

FORNIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued)

CUBA
INDOCHINOIS
POITIERS.

Passengers and crews now being removed. Kept on board at Freetown since 7/11 and 19/10 respectively. Disadvantages of such delay. Request internment camps in the Colony be established (C in C. S.A, 1953/13 to Admty). Your 2211/28/11 and 1240/7. Hoped to send in Portuguese MOUZINHO and SERPA PINTO approx 670 Frenchmen from CUBA to Casablanca. Merchant Officers and crew are being repatriated as opportunity offers in accordance para 2a of your 1841/15/11 after the naval personnel have left. Merchant crews of POITIERS and INDOCHINOIS have been interned. See A.T. 1104/29/10 (C. in C. S.A. 1951/13 to Admty).

LARISTAN damaged.

Your 2120/12 (requesting report on damage to LARISTAN) LARISTAN getting under weigh to come alongside me was in collision stern first with motor vessel PERU. LARISTAN'S rudder bent hard aport and top Gudgeon broke. Minimum number of dockyard and shipwright ratings being left to effect repair of LARISTAN which it is hoped will be completed by 14/12. T.O.O. 1515/10. Fuller report expected from HERMES on her return to St. Helena about 14/12. (C. in C. S.A. 1007/13).

PRAHOVA
SIRETUL
OLTUL
MIMOZA
BORIS
NADIN

Enemy ownership of following ships has been established. If met with at sea they should be captured an brought in as prize; PRAHOVA reported at Los Angeles 23/9. SIRETUL reported at Cadiz 13/10. OLTUL at present at Pernambuco. The following three ships have been requisitioned by Greek Government and previous instructions to capture them are therefore cancelled; MIMOZA BORIS NADIN (C. in C. S.A. 1157N/13).

Foreign. Legion Movement.

Your 1738/9 of 10/12 and C. in C. S.A. 1331/10. Free French merchant personnel ex Freetown to be transhipped at Lagos to FORT DE TROYON, should on arrival at Duala together with Free French merchant personnel arriving Duala on CAPO OLMO, be sorted out to man FORT BINGER, FORT DE TROYON, TOUAREG, CHATEAUROUX, TOMBOTOU. In such arrangements please act in close touch with Captaine le Terrier arriving on CAPO OLMO, and Master of FORT DE TROYON. If necessary complete with British personnel. (D. of S.T. 2119/13 to N.O. S.O. Duala).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued)

Your 1951/12. It is confirmed that the movement outlined in A.T. 2353/10 holds good. For CASAMANCE read FORT LAMY. D. of S.T. 2102/11, the movement referred to in para. 3 is an additional commitment for which it is hoped the ships mentioned in para. 4 may prove suitable and capable for inclusion in W.S. 5A. You may be able to suggest alternative proposals. (D.O.D. (F) 2324/13 to C. in C. S.A).

Raiders.

Following Admiralty messages have been passed to C.S. 15:- 2250/6, 2252/6, 0033/9, 0034/9, 1629/12 and 1647/12.

Following have been passed to F.O. Force K:- 0033/9, 1742/12, 2156/12 and C. in C. Home Fleet's 1102/11 (D. O. D. (F) 1920/13 to C. in C. Med. Force H. etc).

CARNARVON CASTLE (raider action 5/12)

Your 001/6. Following enemy reports transmitted by CARNARVON CASTLE.

T.O.O.	Frequency Kc/c	Remarks
Alarm Report	500, 8330.	Commercial Broadcasting at 1006.
1005	500, 8330 12850	Broadcast at frequent intervals on alternate frequencies between 1015 and 1210.
1057	500, 8330 12950	Broadcast at frequent intervals on alternate frequencies between 1120 and 1210.

None of above signals received by R.A. S.A.D. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, or Falkland Is. W/T Station. Message 1115 broadcast at 1226 on 8330 Kc/s and received only by R.A. South America Division.

/At.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

CARNARVON CASTLE (reider section 5/12) (contd).

At 1000 H.A.S.A.D. was approximately 400 miles from CARNARVON CASTLE, and QUEEN OF BERMUDA was probably within 300 miles. All times G.M.T. (H.A.S.A.D. 13594/13 to C. in C. S.A.).

Mediterranean.

Western Desert.

Operational Summary No 186 to 1200/13. Mentions several attacks on Bardia, Gazala, Tobruk, etc., on lines of enemy retreat and landing grounds in Libya. Aircraft of R.A.A. also bombed Bardia and Tobruk. G.H.Q. M.E. report our ground forces crossed Libyan Frontier into Capuzzo area 12/12. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1323/13).

Summary of operations. Bombardment of Bardia by battleships and attack on El Adem Aerodrom had to be abandoned on 12/12 owing to heavy weather and low visibility. One Fulmar forced landed during operation and crew safe. Despite weather conditions supplies have been moved up coast and landed at Sidi-Barrani. One X lighter sank heavy weather. A ferry service of Egyptian vessels as well as Men-of-War is bringing back prisoners of which 7500 should have arrived by tonight. Stores and water being landed at Sidi Barrani and Mersa Matruh till Army can clear Sollum. Weather now improving.

TERROR recommenced operation at Bardia 2100/13, she was unsuccessfully attacked by E. Boat during the night. Gunboats co-operated at Sollum and are now joining TERROR for deliberate bombardment of Bardia during the next day or two. Destroyers covering operation. A/S Patrols, air and surface have resulted in sinking of Italian Submarine NAIADE as reported. Disembarked R.A.A. Aircraft have been co-operating throughout with flare dropping and A/S Patrols. 830 Squadron from Malta attacked Tripoli (Africa) night of 13/14. Four tons of bombs dropped two sticks burst among ships in mid-stream three direct hits on two ships alongside North Mole also on warehouses causing explosions. Swordfish failed to return. (C. in C. Med 1143/13).

/M.N.B.D.O.....

MOST SECRET.

13. 12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

M.N.B.D.O. — For Cs in C. from Chiefs of Staff No 30 Agreed that R.M. Group of M.N.B.D.O will be sent to Middle East in W.5.6. Details of Group. Your 1055/13 and Admty. 1941/9 refer (1 S.L. 1645/13 to C. in C. Med).

BONAVENTURE Personnel Transport. — Admty. 1742/12 para 3 BONAVENTURE will carry 9 officers and 71 O.R. to Gibraltar where they are to be transferred to destroyers as arranged by S.O. Force H. for onward passage to Malta. These troops have no connection with Operation "Workshop" (D.O.D. (P) 2113/13 to C. in C. Med etc) Cancel my 2113/13 (D.O.D. P). 1331/15).

Dodecanese. — Your 1651/11. Name of one island is corrupt but presume Rhodes and Kos are intended. Please confirm (D.N.I. to C. in C. Med. 2214/13).

Western Desert Operations in Support of Army. — My 1347/12. No bombarding operations carried out today owing to uncertainty of military situation on Sollum Escarpment where fighting is still in progress. PROTECTOR, CHAKLA, FIONA, destroyers, water and petrol carrier, KNIGHT OF MALTA and various Egyptian ships and small craft are operating between Alexandria and Mersa Matruh and Sidi Barrani in order to land provisions and stores and remove prisoners. Weather hampering these operations, but now improving. LADYBIRD and TERROR now proceeding to Gulf of Sollum to bombard tomorrow if required. Preliminary report of Sollum operations indicate TERROR and gunboats assisted by Capt (D) 14 in JERVIS, with NUBIAN, JANUS and HEREWARD did useful work by harassing escarpment road during an important period 0130/11 to 0100/12. All ships were fired on by shore batteries about 6 inch calibre but no hits. Gunboats used pompoms when enemy personnel left vehicles and ran. TERROR and gunboats fired (?practically?) (?continously).
(C. in C. Med 2215/13 to Admty).

/Italian .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Italian Supplies. Albania.

Both Minister of War and Chief of General Staff in conversation yesterday stressed vital importance of British Naval action preventing Italian materials of War from reaching Albania. They stated although Italians had lost much War material had lost neither many prisoners nor casualties. This implied that they had succeeded in withdrawing successfully their troops, and they believed that it might be possible for them to reform and regain their morale provided necessary materials could be brought from Italy. Both Minister of War and Chief of General Staff doubt ability of Greeks to expel Italians from Albania unless conditions referred to above are fulfilled. (A.N.A. Belgrade, 1248/13).

Malta Air Report.

All times G.M.T. 1043-1427 Glenn Martin on photographic reconnaissance Tripoli harbour and Pantelleria. Tripoli harbour - 7 destroyers - one fleet auxiliary - 9 M/V's 10,000 tons - 30 smaller M/V's. Pantellaira not photographed due to enemy patrolling 1650 local time 8 Swordfish left to attack Tripoli. 1655 local time 4 Wellingtons left to attack Valona. If weather suitable at target further 4 Wellingtons will follow. No enemy air activity over Malta today.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1720/13).

BARBETTE. Turkish Crew.

Your telegram 1539/10 (re B.D.V. BARBETTE Turkish General staff agree to send crew to Egypt as soon as possible for instructions in similar class of ship so that BARBETTE can be taken over and commissioned under Turkish flag immediately on arrival. 1924/13 Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Submarines.

Intended that O, P. and R. class submarines should refit in U.K. owing to the urgency for carrying out modifications for noise reduction and to adjust complements. Your remarks requested together with proposed programme for their return. Assumed this would permit refitting your other submarines on the station. D.O.D. (F) 2237/13 to C. in C. Med).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

COVENTRY reported mined.

COVENTRY reports being mined in position 032° 27', 026° 44' at 2042. Proceeding to Alexandria at 13 knots. Destroyers and PROTECTOR joining her. Suspect (?Submarine) (C. in C. Med 2249/13 to Admty) (Ship was torpedoed - see 14/12.).

East Indies.

Air Reports.

Operational Summary 186 part 3 (Sudan) and 4 (Kenya) No naval items (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1324, 1326/13) Operational Summary 184 No Naval items A.H.A. Aden 1608/13).

W.S. 5.B.

Admty U.36/12 Intend ships to be detached from W.S. 5B north of Nozambique Channel and to proceed to vicinity of Ceylon whence ship bound for India and Malaya will proceed direct to destinations. (C. in C. E.I. 06582/13 to Admiralty).

B.S. 2½

Your 1146/11. Yes Convoy B.S. 2½ will be dispensed after passing Aden Request reply to my 1152/9 (C. in C. E.I. 07102/13 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Raider Actions

Request circumstances leading to encounters between ALCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE and respective raiders. Were the encounters entirely foituitous or result of an organised search? (C. in C. E.I. to C. in C. S.A. 1204z/13)

Whalers.

N.C.I.C. Simonstown's 1021/11. He reports whalers can reach Lindi from Durban, where I can arrange their fuelling. (C in C.E.I. to Admty 1206Z/13).

Pilgrim Ships.

Your 0544/2. Italians will not be informed officially but names of ships will be given wide publicity. Other details such as date of sailing and route will not be given. (Hd of M. 1458/13 to C. in C. E.I).

NETRAVATI
PARATI
RATAGIRI

My 0504/4. Dates when ready for service (F.O.C.R.I.N. to C. in C. E.I. 0930Z/13).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Free French Movement.

Report from De Schompse for De Gaulle (C. in C. China 0413/13).

OLE JACOB. (captured 10/11)

Raider which attacked OLE JACOB approached from Starboard bow signalling by lamp that she was H.M.S. ANTENOR wishing to examine OLE JACOB'S papers. Motor boat apparently containing three men left raider but on coming alongside ten more armed men appeared from under tarpaulin and seized ship. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0531Z/13 to Admty, etc.).

America and West Indies.

ST. CROIX.

Arrived here 1200 G.M.T. today (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1145/13).

French W. Indies. Trade.

Your tel. No. 87 of 12/12 to C. in C. A. W.I. only. In view of present U.S. (?Cargoes) I agree no purpose served by embargo on shipments in small quantities from Trinidad to French West Indies of Petroleum products other than fuel oil. Under the circumstances I now have no objection to an occasional visit by a schooner to carry small supplies and agree that this should be at discretion of Captain in charge Trinidad, who should report any such shipments to me. (C. in C. A.W.I. to Governor Trinidad).

CARADOC. DESPATCH DIOMEDE.

CARADOC leaves Jamaica a.m./15 and proceeds Bermuda via Crooked Island passage, so as to arrive p.m./18. DESPATCH leaves Bermuda on completion of practice p.m./16 and proceeds Kingston Jamaica via Crooked Island passage so as to arrive a.m./20. DIOMEDE will probably leave Jamaica for Trinidad on relief of DESPATCH and will subsequently proceed Bermuda to make good defects on relief of CARADOC. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2232/13);

U.S. Bases. Dues.

Governor Trinidad telegram 6126 of 10/12 to S. of S. for Colonies. I would urge most strongly that Colonial Government concerned be advised to waive custom dues on all gear and material required for construction and operational use of U.S. bases from now on. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2252/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ATLAS — Valencia reports expects to sail tonight 12/13/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 0103/13 to C. in C., Med.)

REGENSBURG — B.2. report, took 1400 tons oil from other German ships, 1500 tons more will be taken from shore. B.3. report ship now taking large quantities apples and vegetables. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 08312/13)

JOAO PESSOA — Has sailed from Vigo. Believed to have left about 1130 last night. (Consul, Vigo 1059/13) Informing submarines on patrol, area B. (V.A.S., 1554/13)

BRAKE — My 1406/11. BRAKE now reported at Ferrol (V.A.S., 1139/13)

BELLONA — "eparture 13/12 believed bound for Valencia (Barcelona, 1714/13)

TARONGA — Following from prominent Norwegian. Wilhelmsen vessel TARONGA now being fitted out as auxiliary cruiser at Akers Works, Oslo. (B. 2) (N.A.Stockholm, 1559/13)

HELGOLAND — Italian broadcast on 12/12 claims HELGOLAND, which left Puerto Colombia on 28/10, has reached a German port. (D.S. 467)

REKUM — It is reported that German Tanker REKUM which sailed from Teneriffe 17/7 arrive@ St. Nazaire 8/10 and landed a wounded seaman from British CYMBELINE. CYMBELINE is known to have been sunk by a raider in 20° N., 35° W., on 2/9. REKUM has probably been acting as supply ship to this raider and may now have been relieved by another tanker. (D.D.I.C. 1544/13 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

CHIPKA — Bulgarian ship CHIPKA reported to be under German charter from Odessa Dec. 13th unloading 371 tons machinery proceeding to Batum, date of sailing not yet known. (Consul, Sunsun, T.H.I. 2040/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Saturday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MAYA	Departure tanker MAYA Batoun (Varna, 0935/13)
CONTE GRANDE	N.C.S.O. Santos reports received 300 tons oil fuel and 30 tons paraffin (A.1) (S.O.I Freetown, 1042/13)
MAURO CROCE }	Imminent departure for Genoa (Barcelona, 1714/13)
FORTUNATA	Previously taken in prize by French. Believed to be at Port Lyantey, where she was recently reported to have been unloading her cargo of Toluol. Report now received that i[illegible]
BALENA SARDELLA PESCESPADA }	Trawlers, which left Horta, Azores on 25/9 and Vigo on 1/10, claimed in an Italian broadcast 12/12 to have reached a French port on the Bay of Biscay. (D.S.467)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MANSEER — British, 7911 tons. SSSS 52.30 N., 05.21 W. Submarine sighted. Vis. mod. W.X. overcast (Via Lyness, 0154/13)

ORARI — British, 10,350 tons. SSSS, ORARI, 49.30 N., 20.55 W., torpedoed (Lands End Radio 1857/13)

South Atlantic

NEWTON PINE — British, 4212 tons. SSSS 02.06 N., 22.00 W., NEWTON PINE gunned. (Freetown W/T 1818/13)

ROTORUA — Following received from N.O.I.C. Stornoway:- Arrivals 12/12 EBOR WYKE, VARANGA and ALSEY landed 102 survivors of British ship ROTORUA T.O.O. 1838/12. (A.C.O.S. 0115/13 to Admty., etc.)

ROTOMUA
TOWA
(Torpedoed 11/12) — Your 1400/13. No further information. ROTOTUA believed sunk. If contact is not made search should be made for TOWA and unknown tanker in position 58° 49' N., 10° 09' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1617/13 to MARAUDER)

Survivors ROTORUA landed Stornoway. Chief Engineer stated definitely ship sank. (N.O.I.C., Stornoway, 1624/13 to MARAUDER)

My 1617/13. ROTORUA sunk. Carry out search for TOWA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2138/13 to MARAUDER, BRIGAND)

H.X. 90
(Attacked, 2/12) — Your 2000/10/12 (Report of War Vessel passing EMPIRE PUMA whilst in Convoy) Have interrogated master of EMPIRE KITE and NEURALIA only ships from H.X. 90 in port and they have no information as to incident. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1625/13 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

1554 — D.F., probable U-Boat 55.50 N., 20.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1615/13)

1918 — S/M reported 02.06 N., 22.00 W., at 1818/13 G.M.T. (C. in C., S.A. 1842/13)

1857 — 49.50 N., 20.55 W., (ORARI torpedoed) Convoy S.L. 57 is to keep well clear to westward. (C. in C., W.A., to CANTON, 2342/13)

1227 — 55°-56° N., 16.30- 19° W., indefinite (D.S. 466)

Search W. Approaches — Discontinue hunt at 1730 at which time WRESTLER and JERSEY are to rendezvous as arranged by JERSEY. LE TRIOMPHANT is to proceed in execution of my 1632/11.
JERSEY and WRESTLER are to proceed to cover shipping in the channel between Lizard and Start Point.
JERSEY continue patrol until necessary to have to return to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1254/13 to LE TRIOMPHANT, JERSEY, WRESTLER)

A/S Trawlers and yachts are hunting U-Boat off North Coast of Cornwall. KASHMIR and three destroyers are joining themselves from Northward tonight. Aircraft are co-operating. (C. in C., W.A., 1844/13 to TUNA)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian:- 1 or 2 near Azores.
1 bound for Gironde may be in about 45° N., 7° W.,
1 in area 53° N., to 54° N., 19° W., to 20° W
2 more in N.W. Approaches of which one may be W. of 20° W., in about 53° N.
German:- 1 in Cape de Verde Is. area or northbound therefrom.
1 off North coast of Cornwall
1 in about 52° N., 17° W., to 20° W.
2 between 54° N., and 55° 30' N., E. of 20°W one of which may have been about 55° 30' N., 17° W. at 1227/13.
1 in area off Bloody Foreland.
1 southbound in about 53° N., 12° W. may be slightly damaged.
1 may still be between 58° N., and 59° N., about 10° W.
Possibly 1 between 59° N., and 60° N., W. of 15° W. (D.D.I.C. 1312/13)

MOST SECRET.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland.
Fishing in Prohibited Areas.

My 1949/7. Add as follows to para. 3 (Head of M.1159/14 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Motor Ships on East Coast.

My 2212/13 Admiralty Agreement for coasting and ocean-going motor ships to proceed may be assumed to have been given unless specific signals to the contrary for named ships are made by the Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1635/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

Cancellation of Distress Messages.

Admiralty message D.V. Cases have occurred of doubt as to whether cancellation of a Q.R. or S, distress message was genuine or whether the signal cancelling the distress message was originated by the enemy.

2. As an additional check therefore a ship which has made a distress message of the above type which she wishes to cancel is to carry out the following procedure:-

(a) Cancel the distress message in Plain Language as at present.
(b) About one hour later transmit a coded message cancelling the original report.

3. This message (b) should be prefixed "DR" and whenever possible a different operator should transmit it and the note of the transmitter should be altered in order to reduce the risk of compromising the ships secret call sign. (A.F.W.S.T. 1943/14 to British M/V's. D.S.F. 103.

Clyde.
Docking.
Situation.

Apart from small ships, 4 destroyers in dock, 4 others up river waiting. At least 4 others at Tail of Bank require docking. SUSSEX, SUFFOLK, HECLA and MANCHESTER CITY, should all be docked this month. FIJI and WORCESTER-SHIRE will also require docking soon. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2336/14 to Adty.

DELUGE.

Defence of U.K.
At 1130/14. (D.C.1135/14) At 2330/14. D.C. 2356/14.)
Reference Air Ministry F.O.6. 1040/13.

MOST SECRET.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

DELUGE.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. Contd.
QUEEN ELIZABETH will arrive Rosyth for docking 15th December and as far as can be foreseen there will be at least one capital ship present until mid February. Request arrangements obtaining while KING GEORGE V was in dock may continue until arrangements discussed at recent meeting of Recognition Committee come into force. (A.C.N.S.H. 1307/14 to Air Ministry.)
Your 1212/11. Understood retention of Bty again under consideration and therefore arrangements for relief of R.M. personnel held up. Relief can be arranged at short notice as soon as decision regarding guns received. (Hofor, London 1805/14 to Adty.)

Movements.

SALADIN. SARDONYX. — Expect arrive 1030. (SALADIN 0831/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.) Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1251/14.)

FURIOUS. — Unable to enter harbour, owing to gale. Delay at least 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0850/14.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. — My 2150/13. [illegible] and BRILLIANT have now joined and 2nd Division Destroyers hve been despatched. (QUEEN ELIZABETH 0945/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) 1 Battleship, 4 Destroyers, 260° Rudh Hunish 5 miles, steering 030 at 1455. (C.O. Kyle 1500/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) A/C. reports Q. ELIZABETH in 57° 9'4° W. at 1325. (C. in C. Rosyth 1650/14 to Adty.)

WOLFE, CHITRAL. — F.O.C.N.P. 1000/12. Two destroyers to sailed to escort, as required by F.O.C.N.P. (C. in C. H.F. 1057/14 to RAD.HF.) CHITRAL arrived Reykjavik (F.O. Iceland 1612/14.) Sailed WOLFE at 1600/14. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1615/14.)

BONAVENTURE. — Request you sail for Clyde PM/16. C. in C. WA. 1145/14.)

TARTAR, SEVERN. — My 1822/13. Delayed sailing 24 hours by weather. (C. in C. W.A. 1145/14.)

NELSON. — Your 1036/13 and Adty 2120/13. If preferred, can be docked at about 0900/23 if draught not more than 32½ feet and ship upright. (A.S. Rosyth 1229/14 to C. in C. HF.) Will arrive to dock 23/12. (C. in C. HF. 1905/14.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMAND.

War Diary.

Movements. Contd.

RAMILLIES, ARGUS, CALIFORNIA, CAIRO, ST. LAURENT, SELENA, CORRACK, DIGBY. — Arrived Clyde.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1410/14

Movements.(2).

14th A/S. Striking Force. — Sailed as by F.O.C.N.F. 0920/13. E.T.A. 24/12. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1417/14.)

VENOMOUS. — C. in C. W.A. 1055/14. E.T.A. 0730/15. (VENOMOUS 1500/14 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

READING. RAMSEY. — Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1530/14.)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1536/14.)

KELVIN. — Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1600/14

M.L. 124. — Sailed E.T.A. Milford Haven 1000/15. (N.O.I.C.Belfast 1600/14.

Town-class Destroyer. — It is essential that a Town Class destroyer should be made available for at least four days for first of Class Torpedo Discharge Trials at Weymouth as soon as possible. Suggested BRIGHTON be detailed. (D.O.D. H. 1601/14. to C. in C.W. D.O.D.(H.)

M.T.B. 104. — Cancel my 1834/13. Request you will arrange to send M.T.B.104 with crew to Greenock forthwith. She should be given priority over movement of 55ft. M.T.Bs. (A.C.N.S. F. 1602/14 to C in C. Nore.)

SCOTT. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1615/14

QUORN. — Sailed 1613. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1619/14.)

RAMILLIES. FERNIE, CATTISTOCK. HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND. — Intend sail at 0700/15 for Plymouth as by C. in C.W.A. 2336/13, to arrive in Position stated at 1030/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1623/14.)

M.L. 162. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1706/14.)

FERNIE, CATTISTOCK, HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1707/14.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements 3.

WALKER. Arrived 1745/14. (C.N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1807/14.)

M.A/S.B's. Sailing date. 355. Your 1516/13. Letter is being forwarded proposing 10th January in order that slipping and refitting programme now arranged can be completed. All boats will then be ready for service. At present only one boat is available. It is strongly recommended that the whole Flotilla is transferred on the same date.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1846/14. to C. in C. W.A.)

SKATE. Arrived from Belfast. (N.O.I.C.Londonderry 1950/14.)

TRIUMPHANT. Arrived Clyde. (C. in C.W.A. 1954/14.)

SOUTHDOWN. BRILLIANT. EXMOOR. FYTCHLEY. On completing present duty SOUTHDOWN and BRILLIANT to Scapa. Exmoor and FYTCHLEY to Rosyth for boiler cleaning. (R.A.D. H.F. 2152/14.)

KINGFISHER. To be lent for duty with D.C.O. for 5 days beginning 15/12. (V.C.N.S. 2215/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

M.T.B. 215. Arrived 2217. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2244/14.)

29th A/S. Striking Force. If not in contact and no further information by dark to-night 29th A/S Striking Force and RUBY proceed to Dartmouth, JASPER proceed to Plymouth arriving in position 180° Rame Chapel 2.2. miles at 1030/15.
(C. in C. W.A. 1155/14.)

Operations.

Sweep by M.T.B's. Arrived M.T.B's 29,32,34, at 1010. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1032/14.) Sweep carried out fom Thornton Ridge to Spleet Channel and back to Ostend. Thick fog off Flushing which cleared off Ostend. Nothing sighted. (C. in C. Nore 1220/14. to Adty.)

Western Channel Patrol. If not in contact and no further information available discontinue hunt in time to be off Lands End by 1900/14, and then patrol between Lizard and Start Point to cover merchant shipping proceeding westward.
Return to Plymouth by 1030/15 being in position 180° Rame Chapel 2.2 miles at this time.
(C. in C. W.A. 1200/14. to KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER.)

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd.)

Operation SPECIMEN. To keep clear of S.L.57 steer as follows. C. in C. W.A. 1233/14 to WILD SWAN). My 1140/13. Onward Route for S.L.57 as follows. (C. in C.W.A. 1246/14 to PEGASUS, WILD SWAN.)

Operation. P.V.I. Cancelled tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1731/14.)

Operation. MAJOR. My 0210/14 and 1200/14. Operation completed. Request cover for 4 Destroyers from daylight to arrival Plymouth. E.T.A. 1030/15. (C. in C.W.A. 1920/14 to H.Q.F.C.)

OPERATION IN Mediterranean. Adty. 2200/12. MASHONA and ESKIMO detailed. (R.A.D. 2345/14.

Submarines. 1. ~~Contd.~~

Bay of Biscay. (A). There is a possibility that enemy acco modation transport may leave Bordeaux for Gijon.

(B). UPHOLDER proceed with despatch to patrol position 043° 44' N. 005° 32' W. THUNDERBOLT patrol vicinity 045° 34' N. 001° 34' USK 045° 21'N. 001° 56' and UNIQUE 045° 10'N.002° 19' W. USK and UNIQUE should proceed with despatch up to meridian 004° W. (VAS. 0304/14.)
Request Bombing Restrictions from 0600 to 1800/14 in following area.(V.A.S.0331/14 to M.Q.C.C.
My 0304 and 0306, Object of submarines off Loire and Gironde to attack, and then report enemy transports. Object of UPHOLDER to attack and then report enemy transports approaching Gijon in convoy from North Eastwards. UPHOLDER not to infringe Spanish Territoril Waters and great care to be taken not to interfere with Spanish Coastal Trade.(V.A.S.0332/14.)

My 1918/13. Amend as follows.(VAS.0442/14.)

My 0304/14. Amend position to read USK 045° 05' 002° 32' W. UNIQUE 044° 40' 003° 18' THUNDERBOLT may withdraw to south westward keeping at least 20 miles from position of USK should situation demand it. (V.A.S. 1047/14 to U.S.K.,UNIQUE.)

V.A. (S) 0304/14 and my 0958/12. THUNDERBOLT is to remain on patrol until after dark 16th December and is not to report until west of 005°. TUNA is to remain in wait position 045° 32' 003° 03' W. until 0001/17

HOME COMMANDS.

Bay of Biscay. Submarines 1 Contd.

when she is to proceed to patrol vicinity of 045° 34' 001° 34' W without awaiting report from THUNDERBOLT. TUNA patrol in accordance with V.A.(S) 0332 and 1047/14.(Capt. S.2. 1401/14 to TUNA, THUNDERBOLT.)

Submarines 2 Contd.

WHITE BEAR) TUNA. Your 1609/13. WHITE BEAR and TUNA parted company at 0200/14 5 miles South of Wolf Rock. (WHITE BEAR 0745/14 to Capt. S.2.)

PROTEUS. Estimated in 43° N. 12° 40'W at 0800/15. Route to Portsmouth.(W.A.S.1558/14.)

GREENOCK AREA. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1717/14.)

POSITIONS. For following 24 hours at 0800/15. (V.A.S. 1726/14.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. MUGGY and SYDERO cancelled today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0906/14.) HORNLI,SA.2, SA.3, all cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/14.) 2 A/S Patrols, one surface R/C. East, one A/S sweep West. Covered from 2° W to 7° W.(200 Group 1735/14 to Air Ministry.)

BORDEAUX. LORIENT. To be attacked tonight. (H.Q.C.C.1236/14 to 16 Group, Thorney Island)(H.Q.C.C.1237/14 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Operation. YOUGH & BEAUTY. As in H.Q.C.C. Letter S.7017/22/1/ Plans dated 7/12/40 to 18 Group only. To be carried out on Night 14/15 or on first later night when weather suitable. (H.Q.C.C. 1238/14 to 18 Group, Lenchars, Wick.)

Bremen Wilhelmshoord. Bombed during night 13/14. (H.Q.B.C. 1926/14.)

Hatston. Admiralty message 1931/9. Night art and alt at Hatstone is undesirable as it involves formation flying in the defended area. Desirable therefore, that 816 Squadrons and 825 Squadrons should practice night art and alt before

British Air Activity. Contd.

Hatston. arrival at Hatston on 15/41. Reference my predecessors 0942/1. I am equally concerned over the lack of an effective striking force in this area. Has the possibility of reinforcing 42 Squadron with a detachment from 22 Squadron been considered. (C.in C. H.F. 1921/14 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa. One A/C passed over Flow from S.E. to N.W. at 0958. (A.C.O.S. 1055/14.)

SCANIA. (Swedish 1980 Tons.) Attacked by aircraft at 1100/11 in 55° 30' N. 7° 00' W. Three bombs fell close to vessel but no damage or casualties. Vessel returned to Belfast on account of bad weather and inability to keep in touch with convoy O.G.47.(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1100/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

Humber. Mining. 1.

Closed (F.O. Humber 0317/14.) Open. (F.O. Humber 1040/14.)

Great Yarmouth. Closed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0831/14.)

B.S.47. Postponed on account of weather (SO. M/L. Ironingham 1029/14.)My 1008/13. Request 24 hours be added to all times (C. in C. Rosyth 1346/14 to K.G.F.C.)

Operation. Z.M.E.5. Intend leave Milford Haven 1800/14, lay at 2030, and return on completion about 2230 (ADVENTURE 1149/14.) Completed. (ADVENTURE 2110/14.)

Falmouth Area. Mines have been exploded by weather between 2300/13 and 1400/14 as follows: Falmouth Bay 10, Penzance Bay 5, off Fowey 2. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1430/14.)

Dover. Area. Routine sweeps to 0800/14, QZS 190 Dumpton to Sandhead Buoys by single and double 'L' Trawlers 35 to 50 per cent nothing found. Clearance sweep Sandhead to 'A' Buoy by 5 Oropesa Trawlers found six mines and 8 explosive cutters.(V.A.Dover 1505/14)

Mining 2.

Thames to Medway. Vessels proceeding from Thames to Medway or vice versa are to be routed by the Searched Channels. Cdre, Sheerness is requested to sweep as soon as practicable A Channel 3 cables wide to the Eastward of A line joining No. 3 Medway Bar Channel

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Thames to Medway.

Vessels proceeding from Thames to Medway or vice versa are to be routed by the Searched Channels. Cdre. Sheerness is requested to sweep as soon as practicable A Channel 3 cables wide to the Eastward of A line joining No.3 Medway Bar Channel buoy and No.1 Yantlet buoy.
(C.in C. Nore 1735/14 to N.C.S.O. Thames).

This will be done A.M. tomorrow in conjunction with sweep of Medway Approach Channel. (Comdre. Sheerness 1911/14).

Foulness Sands.

ALOHA reports a Mine about 8 feet long and 3 feet diameter on Foulness Sands one mile S.E. magnetic from West Buxey Buoy.
(C.in C. Nore 2221/13 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Dutch Coast.

Following received from Bomber Command at 2350/13 begins.
Two ships believed to be Cruisers or destroyers in position 52° 30'N. 04°E. Course N.W. with wake ¾ mile long, also three ships believed to be M.V's 8000 to 9000 tons, course North, wake same length ships, with 2 aircraft circling above and ahead, both at 1807/13. Two large ships about 5000 tons, stationary, in 53° 02'N. 05° 12'E. at 1815/13. Ends.
(D.C. 0019/14 to C.in C. Nore).

My 0019/14. Hudson A/C on R/C in this area between 0306 and 0605/14 reports nothing sighted. (D.C. 0940/14 to C.in C. Nore).

Norwegian Coast.

The following reports have been received.
1. (a) All lights in the fairway on the coast between Trondheim and Kristiansund North are now extinguished. Previously it was reported that all lights in the inner leads were normal except for sectors showing to seaward being obscured. Grade C 2. No reason for the change can be given at present.
1.(b) Recent orders issued to pilots instruct them to proceed on the inside of the minefield at Stadlandet. Grade C.2.
2. A German crew has arrived at Tonsberg 59 degs. 18'N. 10 degs 24' E. to take the Norwegian C.D. ship TORDENSKJOLD (C.B.1815 page 217) to Germany to have new guns mounted. She is expected to leave before Christmas. Grade B 2.
3. Germans are urging Finnish ship owners to arrange shipment of valuable cargo of 2000 tons of Titanium ore from Jossingfjord 58 degs 18' N. 06 degs 20' E. to a German Baltic or North Sea port. Grade A 1. No date mentioned but it is presumed cargo is ready to load. (D.N.I.2246/14 to C.in C. H.F.).

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

IMPERIAL VALLEY. (British, 4573 tons) Ashore at 0738/14 half a mile N.E. of Roone Ness, 1 mile N.E. of Crail Harbour. Crew of 45 landed. No casualties. Ship holed and pounding on rocks. (C.in C. Rosyth 1845/14 to Adty.)

SALADIN. Requires new oscillator. (SALADIN 0831/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

EMPIRE ELK. In tow in 56° 40'N. 8°W. Intend running for Tobermory if weather gets worse. Tug SUPERMAN expected. (LA MALOUINE 2230/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

CAIRO. Following damage sustained during gale of Night 10/11. (CAIRO 1113/14 and 117/14) Requires docking. Above water defects will require about 10 days. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2336/14 to Adty.)

I.N. VIASSOPOL. Ashore West of B.4. Buoy. Tug SUN trying to tow her off. (VORTIGERN 1230/14 to C.in C. Nore).

MONA'S ISLE. (A/A Guardship) Your 1443/10. Damage is extensive. Requires docking for at least 14 days. (A.S. Rosyth 1327/14 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

CORTUROUK. (British, 929 tons) Has returned to Clyde with engine defects. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1811/14).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	
F.N. 58.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0942/14).
S.L. 58.	My 1810/12. Amend speeds to 8 and 7 knots respectively (F.O.C.N.P. 1110/14
F.S. 60.	Ships (list put into Tyne owing weather (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1501/14).
O.G. 47.	Sailing telegram (C. in C. W.A. 1730/14)
O.B.C. 259.	Sailed 2200/14. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2222/14).
W.N. 55.	Code "Rusty" escorts unappointed, 12 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1156/14).
S.C. 14.	Since 2200/12 have swept westward along route of S.C. 14 i.e. 055° 20'N 014° 30'W thence north for 25 miles and eastwards to 055° 40'N 008° 50'W. From latter position at 0415/14 am steering mean course 302° 15 knots until 0800 then (? 157°160°263° or 270°) to continue search. (VENOMOUS 0445/14 to C. in C. W.A.).
H.X. 93.	Ocean Escort informs me that H.X. 93 was in position 6030 N 18.00 W. at 0900 and would be 8 hours late. (ACHATES 1035/14 to ACTIVE, ANTELOPE).
S.L. 57.	Meet S.L. 57, 21 ships unescorted 1000/16 53° 07'N 016° 50'W 060° 8½ knots (route). (C. in C. W.A. 1054/14 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER HIBISCUS, GENTIAL) (List of ships C. in C. W.A. 1746/14).
	C. in C. S.A. 1637/12. Leave S.L. 57 24 hours before arrival rendezvous, return to Freetown (route). When well clear of convoy report convoy's estimated p.c.s. (C. in C. W.A. 1154/14 to CANTON).
S.L. 59.	CATHAY is to act as ocean escort to convoy S.L. 59, routed in accordance with Admiralty 1416/7. and N.C.S.O. memorandum O.S.L. (I) 14/12. (1231N/14)
H.X. 97.	WORCESTERSHIRE leaves Clyde escorted at 2200/15 to meet Convoy H.X. 97 and act as ocean escort as far as 23° West. (F.O.C.N.P. 1250/14).

/H.N.40.....

MOST SECRET.

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Convoys (contd).
E.N. 40.

HOME COMMANDS.
Shipping.
E.N. 40. scattered. Request in anticipation of approval they use Pentland Firth. 5 ships with me. (KINGSOL 1115/14 to A.C.O.S.).

5 ships and KING SOL 000° Dunnett Head at 1315, remainder scattered. (A.C.O.S. 1341/14 to Admty etc).

E.N. 38.

E.N. 38 not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1216/14 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

Only ship CAMEO arrived 13/12/40 (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1348/14 to Admty and N.C. S.O. Methil).

E.N. 41.
W.N. 54.

My 1302/13 Act as additional escort to E.N. 41 sailing from Methil 1830/15. On meeting transfer to W.N. 54 due Duncansby 1400/17. Code word for E.N. 41, MIGHT and for W.N. 54, CHITTY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1315/14 to FOWEY).

On completion of present escort duty proceed as necessary to cover E.N. 41 leaving Methil at 1830/15 and due Buchanness at 1200/16. (F.O. (D). H.F. 1525/14 to CURACOA).

F.S. 60.

Position 054° 59'N 001° 11'W making good less than 3 knots. Convoy taking shelter in Tyne. (LOWESTOFT 1246/14 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON and 3 ships of F.S. 60 entered Tyne. D.O. Whitby reports 7 ships proceeding south unescorted. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1447/14 to C. in C. Rosyth

Seven ships of F.S. 60 are reported proceeding South unescorted. LOWESTOFT and WOOLSTON should proceed at such a speed as to avoid damage to overtake and protect them QUORN has been ordered North to assist and should be off 62 D. Buoy at 2215. Ships in Tyne should wait for F.S. 61. (C. in C. Rosyth 1531/14 to N.O.I.C. Tyne)

F.S. 61.

Left with VANITY and WESTMINSTER (C. in C. Rosyth 2351/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).
H.X. 96.

Departure 14/12 RANPURA, Ocean escort H.X. 96. (S.O. (I) Halifax, 1820/14 to Admty etc).

F.N. 58.

Arrivals. LONDONDERRY VIVIEN with F.N. 58, includes Tanker BRITISH LADY from Sheerness, Trawler TERJE V (at Granton) on passage Aberdeen-Blyth KEPPEL from Scapa. (C. In C. Rosyth 2351/14).

F.N. 59.

Southend 14/12 departure for Methil for Tobermory with convoy F.N. 59 H.M.S. TIERCEL (N.C.S.O. THAMES 0820/14)

For F.N. Convoy 59, 7 ships and 13 Trawlers join at 62 D. buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2329/14 to WOLSEY, VERDUN).

SHARAAS.

Departure 14/12 for Clyde, Norwegian tanker SHARAAS escorted by RUMBA. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1009/14).

Troop Convoys.
W.S. 5A.

Your 1711/13. Slow group should sail as arranged at 1600/18 and fast group at 1700/19. Route as in my 1709/12, (additions). (D.T.D. 1823/14 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool).

My 2204/12 Cancel paras. 3. and 4. Times of sailing from Liverpool of slow and fast groups as in (1823/14) Route. Destroyers should be detached to meet inward bound convoys as arranged by C. in C. W.A. Programme has been calculated on the basis of speed of advance of 10½ knots for the slow and fast portions respectively so as to allow of continuous zig-zag from position (s) in my 1709/12. (D.O.D. (H) 2150/14 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. F.O. Force K.).

Mine Warning.

Attention called to Defence of Shipping Part 1, Article 222, and that mines may be encountered in any part of the world, (D.T.D. 1719/14 "A" Message).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration".

Certain considerations (F.O.C.N.A. 0110/14 amended 0950/14) See operations Volume.

My 1244/13 FORRESTER with French M/V AVANT-GARDE) Vessels arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 0202/14 to Admty).

Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders (A.C.N.S. (F) to F.O.C.N.A, to Force H. 0156/14).

Intelligence. Dakar.

Have received following Ambassador Falkland Islands regarding situation at Dakar.

One battalion Senegalese rifles from French Morocco has recently been embarked at Casablanca for Dakar. Other battalions will follow. Confirmed from excellent source that a large depot of gold belonging to Bank of France is buried in outskirts Dakar. French tanker and cargo steamers which passed through Straits of Gibraltar on 10/12 bound for Casablanca are on point of leaving for Dakar. Both loaded with Munitions of War. Aviation petrol coming direct from U.S.A. has recently been disembarked at Dakar. (Consul-General Tangier 1300/14 to F.O.).

French Submarines.

My 1815/10. (Submarine reliefs in Atlantic) French Admiralty state movement postponed 24 hours. (N.A. Madrid 1220/14, to Admty) (F.O.C.N.A. to N.A. Stn. 2131/14).

OREGON.

Your 1225/11. (re OREGON calling at Gibraltar to repatriate French merchant seamen & officers). French Admiralty approves OREGON calling Gibraltar for this purpose on condition she transports no merchandise.

Beirut.

My 1745/9 (all French warships left. One Submarine returned late). Remaining Warships returned 12/12. They had manoeuvres off Tripoli. (Consul Gen., Beirut 1307/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Azores

Force H. to proceed to sea as early as convenient today and proceed towards Azors at 17 knots. Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders. (A.C.N.S. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force H. 0156/14).

My 0304/14. Petrol to north westward of Ile de Yeu in case expedition leaves St. Nazaire. (V.A.S. 0306/14 to TRIBUNE).

Force H.
(for Azores).

Your 0156/14. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 destroyers will sail 0930. (S.O. Force H. to Admty, 0332/14).

My 0332/14. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and available destroyers 6 in number proceeding 1030, departure having been postponed to enable all destroyers to complete with fuel. Request object of operation may be communicated. (S.O. Force H. 1025/14 to Admty).

Gibraltar departure 1030/14. S.O. Force H. in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FAULKNOR, FURY, FORESTER, ISIS, ENCOUNTER, DUNCAN (S.O.I. Gib. 1132/14).

Submarine.
Patrol.

Suggest for consideration that U class S/m's carry out patrol on way to Gibraltar. Object to endeavour to intercept 2 Italian U boats ex-Tangier in case they are proceeding to Bordeaux. (F.O.C.N.A. 1032/14 to Admty). UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE divested to patrol in Bay of Biscay. Further signal will be made when they continue passage to Gibraltar. (U.A.S. 1026/14 to C. in C. Med F.O.C.N.A. Capt. S.I.).

Trawler.
Patrol.

KINGSTON JACINTH patrolling between "I" Channel and Cadiz KINGSTON TOPAZ leaves patrol off Lisbon 15/12 for Gibraltar. KINGSTON TURQUOISE leaves Gibraltar 16/12 to patrol in the area bounded by 295° Capo Roca 15 miles and 40 miles 235° Capo Rozo 15 miles and 40 miles? 337° Capo Espichel 15 miles and 40 miles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/14 to UPHOLDER, USK, UTMOST).

/TRIUMPH.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (continued).

TRIUMPH.	Gibraltar departure 1815/14 TRIUMPH to patrol south of Alboran Islands (S.O.I. Gib., 1816/14).
Hostile Aircraft.	Situation report. At 1135/12, Heinkel 111 over Rock, reported to have Spanish markings. Possibly Savoia with Spanish markings reported over Rock at 1415/13. Fire not opened. Unconfirmed report of tanks area San Roque (Governor Gib. to W.O. 2145/13 recd. from W.O. 1512/14).
MARIA JOANA MAR AZUL.	Seizure of MARIA JOANA has had most beneficial effect. MAR ASUL which was sailing with contreband has cancelled her voyage and will unload her present cargo. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1706/14 to F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.

DELHI.	To return Lagos and embark ammunition from KUMASIAN (F.O.I.C.S. to DELHI, 1049/14).
ARAWA.	Is required Freetown (date) for escort duty. Request you sail her accordingly. (C. in C. S.A. 1259N/14 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).
Dispositions.	South Atlantic dispositions 1200/14 (C. in C. S.A. 1717N/14).
BULOLO.	Leaves Clyde escorted at 2200/15 for Freetown. Route (F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14 1304/14).
CATHAY.	To escort S.L. 59 (see Shipping) Further orders re arrival Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1231N/14).
Foreign Legion Movement.	C. in C. S.A. 1951/12 and proposal send Legion Middle East via Freetown. General de Larminat points out very desireble when ships arrive Duala to embark Legion they should then sail direct South to Sudan. Bad effect on morale of troops if they were to go to Freetown again and perhaps stay there some time. He attaches great importance to this being avoided if possible. (20. M.M. Brazzaville 0715/14 to W.O.).

/My.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Foreign Legion Movement. (contd).

My 1951/12 your 1655/12 para. 1 and your 2102/11 para 4 and Admiralty's 2324/13 para 2 am arranging for TOUAREG and CAPE CLIVE shall bring Legion to Freetown and it will not therefore be possible for French Brigade to join convoy W.S. 5A. (C. in C. S.A. 1943/14 to D. of S.T).

KOSMOS.

Your 1128/13 Recent arrival from Dakar confirms names of nine Norwegian Ships there as stated in C. in C. S.A's 1203/19 and has no knowledge of KOSMOS. Only information here referring to KOSMOS passed in my 1214/27/11 is still unexplained (S.O.I. Freetown to Admty).

Suspicious Ship.

F.O.C. N.A. 1251/14/11 SUTLEJ reports as follows 1015 G.M.T. 5/12 in 031° 06'N 021° 38'W sighted fully loaded tanker with Spanish colours painted on bows and quarters and word Espana on bridge structure and on board abaft funnel. Hull black, superstructure white, resembling CAMPOAMOR in Talbot Booth except had cruiser stern. Black funnel white band and device. Sighted 6 miles on port bow steering S. same course as SUTLEJ. Tanker altered W. closing within a mile, SUTLEJ then took avoiding action. Can you identify. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1434/14 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Simonstown departure 1540/14 PRETORIA CASTLE for patrol and Freetown in accordance with your 1953/12. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1543Z/14 to C in C. S.A.).

ENTERPRISE.

ENTERPRISE. arrived Montevideo 1415/13 leaves 1415/15 15/12 after making good defts. (R.A.S.A.D. 1615Z/14 to Admty).

"Shrapnel" Force.

Commander 102 R.M. Brigade requests latest information from Cumberlege may be communicated before any move of "SHRAPNEL" takes place. Commander is assuming his orders are as when he left England namely that if there is any opposition the operation is to be carried out as a war operation and by force. (C. in C. S.A. 1759/14 to Admty

/Dispositions.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

Dispositions
NEPTUNE
DELHI
MILFORD
DRAGON
FURIOUS
BRIDGEWATER.

To make situation clear as to commitments in Freetown and West African area and Forces available, following is summary of position.

(a) Patrol in Libreville are. NEPTUNE left for Freetown DELHI and MILFORD remain. (b) Force L which includes DRAGON will be at Cape and helping. (c) "D" Class Cruisers required to escort FURIOUS to Takoradi and back (date (d) Cruiser escort required for French Legion from Duala to Freetown (dates) DELHI should be able to (c) and (d) if taken off Libreville patrol. (C. in C. S.A. 1815N/14 to Admty).

(e) "SHRAPNEL", 4 - 6 sloops or Corvettes required to replace destroyers. MILFORD. Libreville patrol require 6 days to reach Freetown. BRIDGEWATER arrived Freetown 12/12 and then acts as A/S escort for convoy. 2 Corvettes arrive (date) Freetown 4 more arrive (date). It will be appreciated that to meet these commitments MILFORD should be recalled from Libreville patrol now, DELHI to leave by (date) leaving no vessels for this patrol after that date. If MILFORD leaves at once 4 escorting vessels will be available for "SHRAPNEL" (date). Sloops are more suitable for this having larger armament. During "SHRAPNEL there will be few vessels available for convoy escort. Intend to recall MILFORD to Freetown now and employ DELHI as outlined above. (C. in C. S.A. 1817/14 to Admty).

Troop Transport.

Your 2353/10 and others request details troops to be disembarked from Neuralia at Freetown. Disembarkation of a large number of troops and transhipment of French may delay convoy for about two days. (C. in C. S.A. 2017/14 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA. Your 1931/13. Approved to send MALAYA to join Force H. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med., 0063/14).

Aerodromes. Requirements for additional aerodromes, staff, Greece and Turkey. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 0859/14 to Air Min.).

Air Report, Western Desert. Operational summary 187 to 1200/14. Shipping seen in Benghazi. No naval items. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1312/14).

Movements. Summary No. 177. (C.in C. Med., 1641/14).

Air Strength. Examination of means of employing the force you envisage (details). (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1821/14 to Air Ministry).

Base Defences. Eastern Mediterranean, re supply of material. (C.in C. Med., 1247/14).

Crotone bombed. Four Wellingtons 148 Sq. despatched to attack Valona night 13/14th. Two returned with bombs. One jettisoned bombs in sea owing to ice formation. Fourth Wellington unable to reach main objective dropped bombs and incendiaries round Crotone Harbour. All bombs seem to burst along waterfront. (H.Q. Malta 0810/14).

F.A.A. attack Tripoli. 8 Swordfish 830 Sq. F.A.A. despatched to attack shipping and facilities Tripoli Harbour night 13/14th. Dive bombing attack from 2,000 feet. Two sticks burst among ships in mid-harbour. 2 hits on ship alongside main north Mole. Warehouses on west of harbour well hit causing large explosions fire started on North Mole and a second ship alongside hit - followed by explosion.
(H.Q. Malta 0810/14).

Enemy Intelligence. Greek Vice-Consul Tripoli under open arrest Tripoli 30/10 to 25/11 ditto Rome to 5/12 arrived at Athens 10/12 reports:-
(a) Convoys at irregular intervals approached from westward. Destroyers often from north-eastward. (b) Gate open during daylight for traffic.
(c) Usually twelve or more Merchant vessels in harbour.
(d) Tankers berth alongside centre inside Karamanli Mole. Ships moored in Middle Harbour discharge petrol in barrels into lighters.
(e) Destroyers berth at western end of Naval Basin and inside northern end of Karamanli Mole. Sunset is usual time of departure.

/ (f) ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

(f) M.A.S. enter harbour at sunset and berth in north-east corner of Naval Basin also three hundred yards north-eastward.
(g) SCUD at eastern end of warehouses on Spanish Quay.
(h) Anti-aircraft batteries on Island one cable north-west central Power Station also one hundred yards north of point where railway cuts defended wall near Porta Benito also on roof of Grand Hotel. (Athens 1519/14, to S.O.I. Alexandria).

Malta Air Raids.

Combined services report from 1700/13 to 1700/14. All times G.M.T.
14/12 0900 - 0918. Formation of CR.42's crossed the Island at 20000 feet evidently on reconnaissance. When engaged by A.A. formation broke up. 6 Hurricanes up but no interception. 1210-1237 enemy formations of 5 bombers and 10 fighters flew across the island and dropped a stick of bombs from Spinola to Flfla (sic) i.e. over inhabited area. 4 Hurricanes up but no interception. No service casualties or damage. Small number of civilian casualties but not serious. Appreciable damage to civil property. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/14).

Air reconnaissance report 14/12.
(a) Naples. Two Battleships five cruisers about 15 destroyers 8 large Merchant Vessels, berthed as reported previously. Convoy of five Merchant Vessels entering the harbour at 1000 (zone - approximate).
(b) Messina. Two cruisers two destroyers four submarines two one thousand ton Merchant Vessels leaving harbour.
(c) Tripoli (Africa). Four destroyers and three torpedo boats one large Merchant Vessel. No visible damage. Photographs not yet examined.
(e) Air Raid Malta no service damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1709/14 to C.in C. Med.)

COVENTRY torpedoed.

My 2249/13 (undecypherable, repetition called for) COVENTRY arrived in Harbour. She was torpedoed by S/M. Damage confined to fore side of bulkhead and lower deck and below. Fore portion of stem unbroken below 16 foot water line. No apparent damage to machinery or equipment beyond loss of paravane clump and chain. Further signal after docking. (C.in C. Med., 1939Z/14 to Admty.)

Italian communique claims COVENTRY torpedoed by MECHELLI (D.S., 468).

/ KIRKLEMOOR, ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

KIRKIENOOR, Boom Defences.

My 1025/5/11. Expected that Boom Carrier KIRKIENOOR loaded with 1.3 miles of A/S A/B for Suda Bay will be sailed from Rosyth for Port Said via The Cape on or soon after 18/12. (D.B.D., 2024/14 to C.in C. Med.)

Valona bridgehead.

Yugo-Slav Government have information that Italians are organising a heavily defended bridgehead round Valona, whether to cover disembarkation reinforcements or evacuation they do not know.
(M.A., Belgrade, 2115/14 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

BATHURST. Commissioned 6/12, left Sydney 0012Z/14 for Westernpost. (A.C.N.B. 1438Z/14).

U.S.S. Sailing delayed (date) due to defect in CANBERRA, needing docking.
(A.C.N.B. 0733Z/14).

East Indies.

Troop Convoys. Your 1234/11. Cannot ships be made available for service U.K. to Middle East by replacing suitable ones at present in your service by ships already released.
(D. of S.T. 0430/14 to P.S.T.O. India).

Air Reports. Soudan. No naval items. (operational Summary 187. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1313/14 1314/14)
Aden. No naval items. (operational Summary 185 (A.H.Q. Aden, 1924/14)

Red Sea Convoys. Following programme Red Sea South bound convoys will be run.
B.S. 11½., B.S. 11½., S.W.4.A., B.S.12., S.W.4.B., B.S.13., contents and dates.
(C.in C. E.I. 0742Z/14)(See operations Vol.)

DEVONSHIRE. Your 1212Z/12. DEVONSHIRE has orders to proceed Durban on relief with W.S.4.B.
(C.in C. S.A. to C.in C.E.I., 1105N/14).

RANCHI. My 0814/10. RANCHI is to proceed now to Mombasa so as to arrive a.m./19. Call at Mahe is to be omitted. RANCHI is to proceed South of Seychelles.
(C.in C. E.I. to RANCHI, 1150Z/14).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Strength.

Reply to appreciation of situation re possible Japanese aggression against N.E. India and Assam.
(Air Ministry to H.Q. R.A.F. India, 1435/14
(See Original copy).

Red Sea Force Composition, Aden Force.

C.in C. Red Sea Force is ashore Aden with Flag in LUCIA. Red Sea Force consisting of LEANDER, PERTH, CALEDON, KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM, CLIVE, GRIMSBY, INDUS, HINDUSTAN, YARRA, PARRAMATTA.
Aden Force consisting of LUCIA, CANTALA, CHAKDINA, MOONSTONE, SAGITTA, AMBER.
Cancel C messages 616, 665 670, 691 and 744.
(C.in C. E.I. 0942Z/14).

Djibuti.

Conversations with Antoine 12/12. General Ayme refuses Italian instructions to disarm four battalions after British refusal to evacuate them and states that Italians must themselves disarm. Italians decided against on condition that French remained neutral and resisted all possible attempts of British expecting to be landed. General Ayme agreed and he and his Chief of Staff have left the country. General Ayme's anti-British feeling has increased. He considered return of Consul (other than Jakins) might be discussed if question of FREDERIC SOUVAGE (?transhipment) in time were reconsidered.
(S.N.O. Red Sea 1908Z/14 to C.in C.E.I.)

America and West Indies.

Fruit Transport.

Your 1545/9. (loading of fruit in TILAPA, BAYANO). Concur in your proposals.
(D.S.T. to N.O.I.C. Kingston 0431/14).

U.S.Bases.

Re negotiations for lease of Morgan and Tucker Islands.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1141/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

HERCOOS JEKABS.	S.O.I. Callao's 1200/14. This Latvian ship failing satisfactory assurance re AmericanCoastal Trade only, to be sent into Esquimalt. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1633/14 to PRINCE ROBERT).
Force K.	Adty. 1917/24. Request policy for Force K may be communicated to me, particularly re acting under my orders when operating against raiders within A.W.I. Station. (C.in C. A.W.I. to Adty). (2151/14).
T.C.8.	Your 2240/6 T.C.8. As maximum speed of PENNLAND is only 13½ knots propose that after meeting local escort REVENGE should weather permitting proceed ahead with GKYL (Signal letters undecypherable) and CAPETOWN CASTLE at 18 knots with five destroyers leaving three destroyers to escort PENNLAND and COLOMBIA at their best speed. (F.O.3B.S. 1527/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LARISSA — Arrived, 3000 tons of manganese ore from Russia. (Macrae, Galetz 1215/14).

ORINOCO. — My 2232/13. In view of possible break out by ORINOCO, CARADOC's orders amended as follows. Leave Jamaica a.m./15 and proceed Nassau via Crooked Island Passage so as to arrive a.m. 17. Fuel from Oiler WAR BRAHMIN and await further orders. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/14).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WESTERN PRINCE.

British 10,926 tons. (routed independently to U.K.) Following has been read: Position 59.32 N., 17.47 W. WESTERN PRINCE torpedoed 0702 (Lyness W/T, 0806/14). BRIGAND to proceed to assist (position) at 0802 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0820/14, to BRIGAND) Detach 1 destroyer to position. Report name. (C.in C. W.A., 0824/14 to ACTIVE) Reporting distress message received from C.S.O. 5 Corps (as above). (C.in C. Portsmouth 0915/14 to Admty). Your 0824. ACTIVE detailed. (ACTIVE 0929/14 to C.in C. W.A.).
Mackay Radio reports WESTERN PRINCE attacked. Request any information and we be kept fully informed as Mr.Howe, Minister of Munitions and three of his staff on board. (C.N.S. Canada, 1201/14 to Admty.)
Your 1201/14 WESTERN PRINCE torpedoed 0702/14 and feared sunk. Survivors are known to have been picked up. Further signal will be made when details are known. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2101/14 to C.N.S. Canada).
Most of the survivors of WESTERN PRINCE have been picked up by BARON KINNAIRD who is returning to Clyde having insufficient accommodation. On completing present operation shall continue searching although unlikely that submarine is in vicinity or BARON KINNAIRD would have been attacked before my arrival. Request instructions. (ACTIVE, 1645/14 to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1645/14. Was Mr. Howe Canadian Minister of Munitions and Staff among survivors picked up by BARON KINNAIRD? (A.C.N.S.(T) 2201/14 to ACTIVE).
Your 1645/14. Rejoin Convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 2212/14 to ACTIVE)
See also under RAZOR BILL.

ORARI
(torpedoed 13/12)

Detach 1 destroyer to meet and escort to North Channel ORARI torpedoed and now proceeding 51.20 N., 17.40 W. at 0435/14 course 050° 10 knots.
(C.in C. W.A. to WHITEHALL, 1312/14)
My 1312 ORARI reported position, course and speed 052° 00'N. 015° 31'W. 070° ten knots at 1050/14.
(C.in C. W.A. 1412/14 to WHITEHALL).
Your 1312/14th VANQUISHER detailed.
My position course and speed at 1500, 055° 57' N. 012° 38' W. 163°, 20 knots.
(VANQUISHER, 1600/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

/ PETER MAERSK. .....

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

PETER MAERSK. British, 5476 tons. S.S.S.S. 32.28 N., 23.26 N., 23.32 W., attacked by submarine. (PETER MAERSK, 1053/14) (D.O.R. 15/12) Position about 300 miles W. of Madeira (D.S. 467).

TOWA. My 2138/13 (ROTORUA sunk, search for TOWA) Tug MARAUDER reports proceeding Stornoway to disembark injured man and to make temporary repairs. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1529/14, to C.in C. W.A.).

GWALIA (torpedoed 1/12) My 1604/6 VIDETTE reports having picked up 4 crew of Swedish GWALIA in position 037° 40' N. 014° 50' W. Ship is reported to have been torpedoed during daylight hours, 1/12. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1632/14).

EMPIRE RAZORBILL. British, 5118 tons (ex D.B. 257) Following has been read. Submarine Raider. Position 69° 5'N. 18°W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL at 1915 G.M.T. torpedoed. (Wick Radio, 1933/14).

Corrected position now 59.31 N. 13.15 W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL now followed by submarine. (Wick Radio 1939/14).

Correct position now 59.31 N. 13.15 W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL now followed by Submarine. (Valentia Radio 1942/14).

EMPIRE RAZORBILL Position 59.41 N. 17.50 W. at 1950 shelled and followed by Submarine. (Valentia Radio, 1958/14 Wick Radio 2001/14).

Detach one ship to attack S/M reported following EMPIRE RAZORBILL shelled in position 059° 41'N. 017° 50'W. at 2000. (C.in C. W.A. 2120/14 to ANTELOPE).

Your 2120/14 ANTELOPE detailed (?my position) 059° 55'N. 014° 50'W. mean course to 0900, 119° speed 7½ knots. (ANTELOPE 2230/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 2214/14. (See under WESTERN PRINCE) Found RAZORBILL at 2215 in position 059° 29'N. 018° 03'W. Only damage on board ? fire and no casualties. Ship reports submarine last seen 20 miles 345° from above position at 2020. Proceed to hunt. (ACTIVE, 2256/14, to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 2152/14 As convoy dispersed in 059° 48' N. 015° 45' W. RAZORBILL'S 2001 supersedes her 1939. Am proceeding to 017° 50'W. (ANTELOPE, 2311/14, to C.in C. W.A.).
Cancel my 2120/14 and 2152/14. (C.in C. W.A. 2350/14 to ANTELOPE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0202. A.F. message 59.32 N., 17.47 W. at 0702/14 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0831/14)

0904. D.F., approx. position of Italian U-boat 45.30 N., 05.20 W., probably proceeding to Gironde. (V.A.S., to S/M's Area B, 0926/14).

1729. D.F., Italian U/B in area 44.30 - 45.30 N., 8° - 9.30 W. (D.D.I.C., 1841/14)

1053. 32.28 N., 23.32 W., sighted by PETER MAERSK (D.S. 467).

Search, W. Approaches. My 1318/13. If nothing seen by 1000 return to Londonderry. BROKE and LA MALOUINE pass by V/S to trawlers in company.
(C.in C. W.A., 0856/14, to BROKE, CALADIN, LA MALOUINE, SARDONYX).

Your 0445/14, discontinue search and return to Belfast. (C.in C. W.A. 1055/14 to VENOMOUS).

My observed position course and speed 055° 37' N. 012° 15' W. 095° 10.
ST.ZENO and VIZALMA in company.
At 1020 spoke ELENI in 055° 34' N. 011° 55' W. straggler from H.X.93.
Weather.
(BROKE 1330/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

Search, If not in contact and no further information by dark tonight, 29th A/S S.F. and RUBY proceed to Dartmouth, JASPER proceed to Plymouth.
Merchant ships westward bound escorted by trawlers and A/P vessels may be met on passage.
KASHMIR and 3 destroyers will be operating in the channel tonight.
(C.in C. W.A., 1155/14).

Search from Milford Haven. My 1155/12. If no contact or further information discontinue hunt.
(C.in C. W.A. 1208/14 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, etc.).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

Italian
1 in 32° 28'N. 23° 32' W. at 1053/14.
1 near Azores
1 bound for Gironde was in about 45° 30'N. 5° 20'W. at 0904/14.
1 was probably still in area 53°N. to 54°N. 19°W. to 20°W.
1 or possibly 2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
German.
1 in Cape de Verde Islands area was probably in 2° 08'N. 22°W. at 1818/13.

/ 1 possibly ....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

German (contd.)
1 possibly damaged about 50° N. 11° to 12°W. bound for Lorient.
1 off North Coast of Cornwall.
1 was about 52° N. 18° W. at 2020/12 but may be the one which was in 49° 50' N. 20° 55'W. at 1957/13 and has since moved to southeastward.
1 was in about 55° 30'N. 17°W. at 1237/13.
1 was in about 55° 50'N. 20° 30'W. at 1554/13.
1 probably in area off Bloody Foreland.
1 was in 59° 32'N. 17° 47'W. at 0302/14 and may have moved to westward.
(D.D.I.C. 1353/14).

Submarines Attacked.

0455.

Have attacked S/M contact. My position 245° Hartland Point 8 miles. (MIGRANTE, 0455/14, to N.O.I.C. Cardiff) Join MIGRANTE hunting U-boat in position 245° Hartland Point 8 miles at 0455/14. (C.in C. W.A. 0342/14 to KASHMIR).

Mediterranean.

NAIDE
SUNK.

At 1850/14 by a destroyer under Capt. D.2, 32.05 N., 25.56 E., 064° Bardia 45'. (D.S. 466). See Mediterranean 15/12.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Greenock. Rescue Tug Situation. — I have at present no Rescue Tugs available for service. Particulars. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1225/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Use of M.L's for Air Rescue work. — My 1526/14. As rough weather trials of M.L. 135 have proved these craft to be capable of withstanding bad weather it is intended to use the M.L's now becoming available in this command for air rescue work. As consecutive numbers of M.L's become available they will be transferred to their Flotilla bases being replaced by others assembling at Plymouth vide A.M. 2047/25/11. (C.in C. W.A. 1744/15 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 1130/15. (D.C. 1153/15). At 2330/15 (D.C. 2331/15).

Dungeness. Relief of MNBDO. Personnel. — Your 1805/14. Disposal of equipment of Battery is being reconsidered but personnel are required now.
2. Request therefore that relief be carried out and guns manned until either.
(a) the guns are required for other purpose; or
(b) the personnel can again be relieved by R.M. unit now forming.
(D. of L.D. 1220/15 to HQFORS 144).

Movements.

COSSACK) SIKH) — Intend sailing 0905 today for Scapa. E.T.A. 2359/15. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0051/15) Sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1004/15)

JERSEY — Arrived Plymouth 1122/14. (C.in C. W.A. 0032/15).

RAMILLIES — Approximate position at 0830/16, 50° 10' N. 6° 3' W. (C.in C. W.A. 0144/16) Sailed 0716 with FERNIE, CATTISTOCK, HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND as by my 1823/14 and my 2109/14, routed by QZF. 18 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0821/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

DIDO ECLIPSE } — Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 0245/15).

VENOMOUS — Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0716/15).

WRESTLER — Your 1455/14. Arrived. (C.in C.Portsmouth 0928/15).

M.T.B. 107. — My 1912/14. Left Sheerness 0530/15 on lorry with Torpedo and Stores. (Cdre. Sheerness 0956/15).

/ RAMSEY READING } .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.12.1940. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

RAMSEY READING	Intend sailing 1600/16 for Plymouth. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1005/15).
KELVIN	Sailed for Plymouth (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1050/15) Proceed to Liverpool. (C.in C. W.A. 1202/15 to KELVIN) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2115/15).
KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER	Arrived 1055. (C.in C. W.A. 1204/15).
BRIGHTON.	Your 1601/14. Concur. Hoped BRIGHTON ready leave Plymouth P.M./20 (C.in C. W.A. 1207/15).
FURIOUS.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1213/15).
CHITRAL.	Left Reykjavik 1300/15 G.M.T. E.T.A. Clyde 1300/18. (F.O. Iceland 1215 Z/15).
INTREPID.	To be sailed for Immingham on completing repairs. (A.C.N.S. H. 1222/15 to C.in C. Rosyth). Request you sail accordingly. (C.in C. Rosyth 1659/15 to N.O.I.C. Hartlepool).
HAVELOCK.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1237/15).
WITCH WITHERINGTON	C.in C. W.A. 1456/10 and A.M. 2250/6. Intend to sail at 1700 today for Liverpool. E.T.A. 0830/17. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1247/15) Sailed (C.in C. Portsmouth 1733/15).
BROKE	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1315/15).
2 Tribal Destroyers for Mediterranean.	Cancel my 2157/12 and 2200/12. (D.O.D. H. 1334/15).
12th M/S Group.	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1342/15).
RODNEY MATABELE, ELECTRA ESCAPADE, BULLDOG	Arrived Scapa 1330 (A.C.O.S. 1407/15).
QUEEN ELIZABETH NIGERIA, CURACOA, SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, FITCHLEY, BRILLIANT	Arrived 1330 (C.in C. Rosyth 1422/15).
NIGERIA, SOUTHDOWN, BRILLIANT	Sailed for Scapa. (C.in C. Rosyth 1422/15) NIGERIA arrived Scapa 1340/15 (A.C.O.S. 2024/15).
AMAZON.	Sailed as by Capt. D. Greenock's 1740/14. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1556/15).

/ QUORN. .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

QUORN — Arrived 1620. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1650/15).

CHURCHILL. — Sailed 1717. E.T.A. Scapa 1000/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1958/15).

WILD SWAN. — E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0900/17. (WILD SWAN 2033/15).

FULOLO, WORCESTERSHIRE, AMBUSCADE — Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14 and 1304/14. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2215/15).

Operations.

Operation FXA — Intend sail M.L's 106 and 110 today to carry out FXA. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1205/15 to C.in C. Nore) Operation cancelled owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1435/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Operation SPECIMEN — At 2000/15 PEGASUS and PERIWINKLE in 52° 30' N. (?19°) 40'W. steering 123° at 5 knots. (WILD SWAN 2033/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Convoy F.S.60. N.C. MONBERG (Danish, 2301 tons) torpedood and sunk. — One Enemy War Motor Boat bearing 100° 2 miles course unknown, position 52° 44'N. 2°12'E. (WOOLSTON 2100/15).
One ship torpedoed. (LOWESTOFT 2113/15 to C.in C. Nore)
Trawler CAPE PORTLAND standing by. (LOWESTOFT 2121/15 to C.in C. Nore).
Tug KROOMAN leaving Yarmouth now. (C.in C. Nore 2205/15 to CAPE PORTLAND)
Sailed Tug KROOMAN to assist. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2258/15).

At 2110/15 WOOLSTON reported one enemy war boat sighted 2 miles 100° from 52°44'N. 2°12'E. At 2113 Lowestoft reported one ship in F.S. 60 torpedoed. Enemy retired to eastward at 2127 H.M. Trawlers CAPE PORTLAND and LE TIGRE stood by the torpedoed vessel, Danish S.S. N.C. MONBERGH 2300 tons. Later reported N.C. MONBERGH sank in 25 fathoms position 52°40'N. 02°10'E. Trawlers returning to Harwich with survivors. LE TIGRE and survivors CAPE PORTLAND 2 - both unconscious. (C.in C. Nore 0655/16 to Adty.)

/ At 2105/15 ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

At 2105/15 when two miles south of Smiths Knoll Light Vessel WOOLSTON on port quarter of convoy detected fast H.E. on Port Beam. Immediately turned towards and went full speed and at same time saw two torpedo tracks pass under ship. Torpedoes hit N.C. MONBERG third ship in Port column and vessel subsequently sank. Survivors picked up by trawlers CAPE PORTLAND and LE TIGER. WOOLSTON sighted and engaged target at range about 1500 yards. Target turned away at high speed and disappeared behind smoke screen and nothing further was seen or heard of enemy. Weather foggy, visibility at the time about one mile. (LOWESTOFT 1450/15 to Adty.)

Submarines.

SEAWOLF. C.in C. W.A. 1513/12 to S.S. Intend sail unescorted at 1430/16. Route to R/V at 1030/17 in 110° Start Point 3 miles. (S.S. 0940/15).

THUNDERBOLT. My 0958/12. Amended R/V for Escort at 0845/19. SBR postponed 24 hours. (S. 2. 1204/15 to THUNDERBOLT)

TRIDENT. Intend sail from Clyde 0845/17 escorted by CUTTY SARK. (S.2. 1206/15).

SEVERN. My 1158/15. E.T.A. Clyde 2100/16. (C.in C. W.A. 1318/15 to Adty.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1341/15).

L. 23. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1621/15).

UNBEATEN Route to R/V with WHITE BEAR and to Barrow (S.3. 1737/15).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/16. (V.A.S. 1758/15 and 0334/16).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. CENTO being flown to-day instead of MUGGY. (C.in C. Rosyth 0326/15)
Patrol by Blenheim from Dyce to Flamborough and return. (C.in C. Rosyth 0828/15).
S.A.2 and S.A.3 ordered for today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/15).

Lorient } Brest. } 53 and 59 Sqdns. to attack S/M's and Dockyard at Lorient tonight. Alternative Target, Power Stations and Dockyard at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1230/15 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

/Bordeaux } Lorient } .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Bordeaux)
Lorient)

217 Sqdn. to attack S/M's at Bordeaux tonight. Alternative Target S/M's at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1231/15 to 15 Group, St. Eval) (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1445/15 to Adty.)

Hatston.

C.in C. H.F. suggests possibility of reinforcing 42 Squadron with a detachment from 22 Squadron. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. H. 1523/15 to Air Ministry).

Rosyth. Special arrangements.

A.271 15/12.
Owing to special importance attacking to Rosyth you are requested to repeat this requirement to any other authority.affected. Admiralty request to signal immediately special situation ceases. Group controller is temporarily authorised to permit barrage fire against X raids which appear likely to threaten the vital area. In view of above conditions presume R.A.N.A.S. will make special arrangements about flying from Carl.
(H.Q.F.C. 1630/15 to Air Ministry).

Ops 6 15/12. Special importance is attached to Rosyth from 15/12.
All aircraft should be routed to avoid the defended area. Notification will be issued when necessity no longer exists.
(H.Q.C.C. 2320/15 to 18 Group).

Mining.

Great Yarmouth.

Port open. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0851/15).

Nore.

FENTONIAN reports one red mine detonated by L.L. Trawlers 2115/14, 226° B.7 Buoy, 1.5 miles near inside. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1029/15 to C.in C. Nore).

ADVENTURE.

To load and report when complete with mines and fuel and at 4 hours notice. (D.O.D.(H) 1209/15 to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1209/15. Loading and fuelling progressing satisfactorily expect to complete 2100/15. (ADVENTURE, 1724/15 to Admty.)
Your 1209/15. Completed with mines and fuel and now at 4 hours notice. (ADVENTURE 2130/15 to Admty.)

Operation B.S.47.

Postponed another 24 hours (S.O. Mineleyers, Immingham 1104/15 to Admty.)
My 1008/13 and my 1346/14. Postponed a further 24 hours (C.in C. Rosyth, 1404/15 to H.Q. Fighter Command).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

LUTZOW SCHLESIEN TIRPITZ BISMARCK	Positions on 14/12. (D.D.I.C. 1057/15)
Unknown Ship.	NORTHERN CHIEF sighted a ship in 62°32'N. 13°35'W. at 1445/15, steering S.S.E. Contact lost in heavy rain. (F.O.C.N.P. 1857/15 to WOLFE)
E-Boat	Bearing 100° 2 miles from 52°44'N. 2°12'E. (WOOLSTON 2100/15)

MOST SECRET.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ORION. (Greek, 4798 tons) Steering broken in 50°55'N. 37°20'W. Help immediately. (Wick Radio 0028/15).
AMICUS proceeding to assist. Expects arrive 1400 G.M.T. ORION bearing 63° from Cape Race. (Valentia Radio 0236/15).

EMPIRE ELK In tow of LA MALOUINE at 2222/14 in 56°40'N. 8°W. Proceed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0140/15 to SUPERMAN, ANEMONE).
Sailed ENGLISHMAN 0917/15 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0943/15) of Barra, Course 150°, Speed 1 knot. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1620/15 to ANEMONE).
Tow turned over to SUPERMAN. Am returning to base. (LA MALOUINE 1206/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

TYSA. (Dutch, 5327 tons) At 0445 G.M.T. Steering gear broken again and now unrepairable. Require immediate assistance. (Valentia Radio, 0501/15)
Ship is in 042° Skerryvore Light 8 miles. Can you send a tug. (Greenock 0556/15 to Adty.)
TYSA not found. Visibility bad. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1630 (LA MALOUINE 1206/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

STORNEST (British, 4265 tons) Leak developed. Doubtful if can control. Request urgent assistance. Position 51°7'N. 32°37'W. (STORNEST 1447/15)
Leak partly under control. Still request somebody stand by me. Position at 1800 G.M.T. 51°16'N. 32°11'W. Course 070°. (Valentia Radio 1808/15).

BRITOMART)
SEAGULL) (Fleet Mine-Sweepers) Both damaged in collision. Repairs to SEAGULL can be made locally. Request where BRITOMART should be sent. (A.C.O.S. 2001/15 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.12.1940. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy Escorts.	Admty. 1223/15. Observations on strength of escorts and maximum numbers in convoys. (See Situation Report). (C.in C. W.A., 1606/15 to Admty.)
Convoys.	Estimated positions 0900/15. (D.T.D. 1101/15 to C.in C. H.F.).
E.N. 42.	Escorts STELLA, CAPELLA, HORNPIPE, additional escort LONDONDERRY. 10 ships, (7 overseas). Codes, "Mission", "Monitor", "Mixture". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1650/15).
F.N. and F.S.	Cancel my 1010/6. Forecast of sailings. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0947/15).
E.N. 41.	Escorts ANGLE, SALTARELLO, additional FOWEY, NOTTS COUNTY, OPHELIA. 28 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1935/15).
E.N. 53 O.	List. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1530/15).
E.N. 39.	List. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1300/15). Arrived less TYSA. (1630/15).
W.N. 54.	Sailed 1420/15. Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1221/15, 1715/15).
O.B.M. 260.	ROSEMARY. 9 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1431/15).
F.S. 61.	Sailed 1500/15. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1511/15).
S.C. 16.	My 1806/12. Doubtful if LACONIA can overtake. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to give cover up to 030° W. to this convoy and H.X.96 and H.X.97 (F.O. 3 B.S., 1114/15) Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O., Halifax 1406/15, 1409/15, 1538/15)
H.X. 96.	Sailing telegram. Escort RANPURA, B.H.X., ALAUNIA. (C.O.A.C., Halifax 1118/15).
F.S.60.	As in company with QUORN and convoy position 053° 55'N. 000° 19'E. (LOWESTOFT 0201/15 to C.in C. Rosyth). Estimated position 053° 22'N. 001° 00'W. (LOWESTOFT 0307/15).
E.N. 42. } W.N. 55. }	Sail 1030/16 for Methil, C.O. attending Conference there 1415. Act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N. 42, sailing from Methil 2200/16. After E.N.42 has passed Dunnet Head, proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. requested sail LONDONDERRY to join W.N. 55 due Duncansby 1400/19. (C.in C. Rosyth 1123/15 to LONDONDERRY).

/ S.L. 57 S. .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

S.L. 57 S. — F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14. R/V with WORCESTERSHIRE and BULOLO at Cate at 2200. When detached by WORCESTERSHIRE take AMAZON under your orders and proceed to R/V with S.L. 57 S. and remainder 3rd escort group in 053° 07'N., 016° 50' W. at 1000/18. (Capt (D) 12, 1138/15 to AMBUSCADE).

O.B. 259. — Londonderry departures 15/12, SHIKARI, SCIMITAR, SKATE, MALLOW, WELLARD, NORTHERN DAWN for O.B. 259. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1505/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X. 93. — ACHATES position, course and speed at 1200/15, 059° 47'N., 012° 42'W., 160° four knots, 8 ships and trawlers in company, (C.in C. W.A. 1756/15 to ACTIVE).
Am in company ACHATES and LADY MADELINE and 7 ships of H.X.93. You should try and join HEATHER who has 11 ships. (ACTIVE, 2030/15 to ANTELOPE).

S.L. 57. — ORARI has arrived Clyde, proceed to join convoy S.L. 57.
(C.in C. W.A., 0726/15, to VANQUISHER).

S.L. 57. — Estimated p. c. and s. of S.L.57 at 1930. A. 051° 40'N. 021° 00' W. 060° eight knots. My speed of advance on route ordered in your 1154/14, 14 knots. Weather. (CANTON, 2101A/15, to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N. 40.
S.C.14. — Leave E.N. 40 and proceed escort ATHENIC and 7 ships ex S.C. 14 now at Stornoway but have been ordered to proceed South. Inform Commodore one trawler is to escort to Oban ships bound for E. coast ports, remaining ships to be escorted to North Channel by other trawler. Trawlers return to Belfast. (C.in C. W.A., 1812/15 to Trawlers KING SOL, ARAB).

F.N. Convoys. — For new few weeks F.N. convoys will sail from Southend at 0630 adjustment of time-table given in C.in C. Rosyth's 1943/24/11 is not considered necessary.
(C.in C. Nore. 2122/15 to C.in C. Rosyth)

S.C.16. — Halifax departure 15/12. H.M.C.S. COLLINGWOOD, local escort S.C.16.
(S.O.I. Halifax, 2125/15).

/ Raiders,
W/T watch. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Raiders, W/T watch.

Admty. message "D.W." Suspected that surface raiders are locating ships sailing independently by obtaining D/F bearings of oscillating W/T receivers. Whilst it is essential that W/T watch should be kept in these ships, any Master who suspects that his receiver may be oscillating should:-
Report to N.C.S.O., Owner or Agent at next port of call, pointing out that his ship is being endangered by the inefficiency of the equipment and request advice and assistance in remedying such inefficiency.
Impress on Radio Officer the danger entailed in trying to read distant W/T stations with an indifferent receiver, especially in quiet W/T areas such as the South Pacific.
(D.T.D. 1339/15 to C.B.M.S. (in all areas).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

OREGON. My 0938/13 sailed OREGON. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1211/15 to Adty.)

CUBA. My 1951/13. Total of 929 French from CUBA embarked MOUZINHO and SERPA PINTO which sailed 15/12. (C.in C. S.A. 1901/15 to adty amended 2256N/15).

North Atlantic.

Azores. Force H less SHEFFIELD to establish Azores patrol to prevent any enemy attempt to capture these islands. See Admiralty 2146/30/10 and F.O.C.N.A's 1152/10/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 0200/15 to F.O.Force H).

My 0200/15. Secret information indicates that Germany may attempt to capture the Azores either by a seaborne expedition or by Transport aircraft either float planes landing at Horta, Timbay or Ponta Delgada or land planes landing on Terceiro aerodrome. Former might start from Bordeaux or Gijon in North Spain, latter from Bordeaux or Laon 60 miles south of Gijon.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0200/15 to F.O.Force H.)

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and six destroyers will arrive in vicinity of Azores p.m. 16/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 0210/15 to CACHALOT F.O.C.N.P. to Western Patrol).

ORANGELEAF. Request you will sail ORANGELEAF to join Force H.
(D.O.D.(F) 0216/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ORANGELEAF. (Contd.)

Adty. 0216/15. ORANGELEAF sails 1800/15 to comply with orders.
(1144/15).

ORANGELEAF escorted by WISHART sailing 1800/15 route. KINGSTON JACINTH on patrol between Cape St.Vincent and Cadiz.
(F.O.C.N.A.Station. 1155/15).

Gibraltar departure 1815/15/12 ORANGELEAF in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1155/15 escorted until dark 16/12 by WISHART.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2026/15 to Adty).

Whalers.

Arrived and left 14/12 H.M.Whalers SWONS SKUDD III SKUDD IV SKUDD V.
(British Consul S.t Vincent. 0900/15 to Adty).

SHEFFIELD VIDETTE.

Gibraltar arrivals 15/12 0800 SHEFFIELD 0945 VIDETTE.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0952/15).

ASPHODEL CALENDULA.

ASPHODEL CALENDULA arrived Ponta Delgada 1500 G.M.T. 15/12.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1520/15).

Suspicious Ship.

A loaded tanker with Campsa colouring and similar to CAMPOAMOR except she had cruiser stern was sighted in 31° 6'N., 21° 38'W at 1015 G.M.T. 5/12 course south. Name ESPANO on bridge structore and on board abaft funnel. Can this have been a Spanish tanker recently acquired?
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1656/15 to N.A. Madrid).

Daily Summary Operations.

Two routine A.S.patrols. One surface reconnaissance to East, one reconnaissance vicinity Casablanca.
(200 Group, 1730/15 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Oil Supplies.

Your 0216/15 and your 1205/5. Owing to large issue of diesel oil to A.M.Cs. reducing stock to very low level Oiler ORANGELEAF will be sailed with only (?250) tons of diesel on board. Quantity on board CAIRNDALE has been reduced to 200 tons but will be replenished on arrival if BRITISH UNION.
(A.S.Gibraltar 1800/15 to Adty).

South Atlantic.

BRIDGEWATER.

U/Boat report while assisting ENGLISH TRADER. (See U/Boat Campaign.)

MILFORD.

Proceed to Freetown with despatch fuelling Lagos if required.
(C.in C. S.A. 1101N/15 to MILFORD).

S.D.F., S.A.

Admiralty's 1202/12. (Responsibility of Union Gov. for Flotilla based at Alexandria) Action by Admiralty not now necessary. My 1800B/13 para. two (B) Defence Dept: st te term disability includes pensions to Widows and Dependents.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1202B/15 to Adty).

Suspicious Vessel.

Your 1434/14. (Sighting of suspicious ship). No, but almost certain not Spenish. Suggest possibly German SAMLAND.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1649/15 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Four Machine Guns shipped in FURIOUS for disembarkation at Freetown for ultimate delivery to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
(D.O.D.(F) 1845/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

Foreign Legion Movement.

Your tel.T.two 13/12 ships should only be in Freetown one to two days. Unlikely ships available earlier if CAPO OLMO goes to Pointe Noire first as requested by Free French authorities. N.C.S.O. Duala has full details and instructions to arrange with French authorities. Question of escort has to be considered also.
(C.in C. S.A. 1143/15 to Military Mission Brazzaville).

Shrapnel Force.

Your 1759/14. Summary of latest information will be signalled. If opposition is encountered the operation is to be carried through by force.
Your 1931/14 yacht SURPRISE completes refit (date).
(D.O.D.(F) 1953/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

CUBA, INDOCHINOIS repatrioes.

My 1951/13 and 1955/13 MOUZINHO with 403 and SERPA PINTO with 526 passengers left Freetown 15/12 for Casablanca. Both ships granted Navicerts and both masters gave undertaking required by A.T.1939/10 to C.in C. S.A.
(C.in C. S.A. 2005N/15 to Adty).

Walvis Bay.

Your 1307/9 and related signals.
Policy re Walvis Bay for use of Bunkering.
(D.T.D. 2318/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Press Communique. Intend issuing following(Communique on Western Desert operations in support of Army, sinking of Submarine NAIADE, F.A.A. attack on Tripoli night 13.14/12) (C.in C. Med, 1200/15).

TETRARCH. Reports completely blank patrol, only sighting being 1 A/C. Majority of patrol spent vicinity of Pelagosa Island. (V.A. Malta 1205/15).

Operation M.C.2, M.C.3. Intend following operation M.C.2. M.C.3. (C.in C. Med. 1315/15, 1407/15). See Med.Vol.)

TRUANT. Remain to west of 18 from 0400/18 to 2000/19. British surface force will be operating in your area to East. (Capt: S.1. 1853/15).

SOUTHAMPTON PERTH. To join Med. Fleet SYDNEY and GLASGOW. (D.O.D.(F) 0120/15). See Australia.

BATHURST Minesweepers. Allocation of some to Mediterranean. (D.O.D.(F) 0121/15 - See Australia).

GLASGOW. My 1501/6. Extent of damage. Temporary repairs 6 weeks. When complete estimate 20 knots. (C.in C. Med. 2229/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Naples bombed.

Special operational summary. Night 14-15/12. 9 Wellingtons in 2 Echelons despatched to attack Italian Naval Units in Naples. 1615-2200 - 4 Wellingtons dropped 8,000 lbs. S.A.P. and 960 lbs. incendiaries on and around Naval Units and docks. Three sticks were seen to burst on Jetty where 2 battleships were moored causing fires which burnt for 15 minutes. 5 hits were registered on a concentration of cruisers and destroyers and nearby four large flashes appeared at one minute intervals. Other fires were burning when target was left. Weather at first fine - clear and brilliant moon - target easily identified. 2000 - 0115 Wellingtons despatched to same. Although target was located in fleeting glimpses through gaps in cloud - only one aircraft was able to drop his load on Port near battleship. A second Wellington was hampered by ice and after an unsuccessful attempt to attack shipping found himself over Naples aerodrome and released his load on and near this. 3rd Wellington after unsatisfactory attempts to attack ports - located Margellino Station and Junction. 3 large explosions and four fires were seen on and near railway. 4th Wellington identified large buildings resembling factory at Torre Annunziata and attacked same. All 9 Wellingtons returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 0845/15).

BARBETTE, transfer to Turkey.

N.A.Angora's 2140/13. Intend transfer of BARBETTE to Turks should take place at Port Said. Officers and higher ratings should proceed Alexandria for three days for instructions in B.W.V. WAGNET which should include at least one day at sea and demonstration of use of winches, rigging etc. Maltese crew of BARBETTE are to be sent to Malta. One British officer may proceed to Turkey in BARBETTE if Turks so desire and remain up to one month for instructional purposes. Desired that BARBETTE should arrive in Turkey as soon as possible, consistent with her being turned over in an efficient condition.
(C.in C. Med. 0911/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Turkish Personnel.

My 0911/15. (No trace in W.R.)
Presume Turkish Govt. will make necessary arrangements for entry of their officers and ratings into Egypt through Turkish Ambassador Cairo.
(C.in C. Med. 0913/15).
Note. C.in C. Med. 1539/10 refers.

COVENTRY.

513. My 1939/14. (Torpedoing of COVENTRY)
Add: In view of limited damage and fact that submarine has probably since been destroyed it is proposed not to publish this incident. (C in C Med 1035/15)

NAIADE, Sunk.

Italian submarine NAIADE was sunk in position 032° 03' 025° 56' E at 1850/14 by destroyer under Capt:(D) 2. 5 officers 10 petty Officers and 32 men taken prisoner In view of importance of keeping pressure on failing Italian morale intend releasing news of sinking now.
(C.in C. Med. 1115/15).

Valona bombed.

Operational Summary No.188 up to 1200/15.
Greece. Day 14/12. 0915 hours. 8 Blenheims bombed Valona town starting a fire in the barracks and hitting M.T.yard causing clouds of black smoke. Other bombs fell near military store. 6 ships in Valona harbour. 1215 hours. 4 Blenheims attacked Valona aerodrome but 2 returned with bombs owing to failure of release gear. 1 fighter on ground damaged. Fighter Blenheims provided escort patrol for convoy. 2 Sunderlands patrolled south eastern Ionian Sea for enemy surface forces.

Bardia bombed by R.A.F. and F.A.A. TERROR bombardment.

2. Egypt. Day 14/12 0855 hours.
9 Blenheims 55 Squadron bombed Bardia, results not observed as Squadron was intercepted by enemy fighter patrols totalling approx. 50 CR.42's.

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Blenheims were vigorously attacked for 20 minutes but fought off the fighters. (Details). 0900 hours. 8 Blenheims bombed Bardia inflicting heavy damage and starting fresh fires among buildings and store dumps. All aircraft returned. F.A.A.Swordfish bombed Bardia in co-operation with bombardment by TERROR. Wellingtons Blenheims and further Swordfish later bombed Bardia by night demolishing barracks and warehouses. Large fires and an explosion were also caused. G.H.Q. M.E. report enemy still holding out in Halfaya Sollum and Capuzzo.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1228/15).

BONAVENTURE. Cancel my 2113/15. (Officers and other ranks in BONAVENTURE).
(D.O.D.(F) 1331/15 to C.in C. Med. etc.)

Malta Raids. Combined services report Malta from 1700/14 to 1700/15. All times G.M.T. During night from 0234 to 0027 4 separate enemy aircraft raided Malta height approx. 11,000 feet. 3 sticks fropped in sea off Grand Harbour and 1 S.E. of the Island also in the sea. 1 stick inland near Yuqa aerodrome. 1 Hurricane up but no interception made. Difficulty of interception increased by raiders coming in same time as Wellingtons returning from Naples operation. At 0945 enemy aircraft plotted circling 15 miles South. 6 Hurricanes up but enemy did not cross the coast.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1725/15).

Air Reconnaissance 15/12.
(a) At 1300 a convoy of 5 merchant vessels in position 20 miles north of Crotone proceeding south west along coast.
(b) At 1415 one submarine on the surface in position 20 miles East of Syracuse steering 090 . Aircraft attacked submarine with machine gun fire.
(c) Entering Taranto Harbour, one Littorio class battleship one 8 inch gun cruiser 4 destroyersand 2 large merchant vessels.
(d) Taranto two (?damaged) Cavour class battleships in same position northern one with two destroyers alongside.
In inner harbour one 6 inch ?(gun) cruiser

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

and one destroyer.
(e) Brindisi not visited owing to bad weather. Time zone minus one.
(V.A. Malta 1805/15).

East Indies.

WESTRALIA. To return to Australia.
SOUTHAMPTON. To join Mediterranean.
PERTH. To join Mediterranean.
(D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 - See Australia.)

"Hunt" Destroyers. 4 to join Red Sea Forces.
(D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 - See Australia).

C.M.7. Convoy C.M.7. arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0930Z/15).

W.S.4.B. My 0808/12 and 1212/12. Sailing of W.S. 4.B. from Durban is delayed 24 hours, SOUTHAMPTON is now to R/V with W.S.4.B. in position 022 20'S., 041 00'E at at 0700Z/18.
(C.in C. E.I. 0454Z/15 to SOUTHAMPTON, SHROPSHIRE DEVONSHIRE). SOUTHAMPTON left. (R.O.Zanzibar 1115/15).

B.S.11½. My 0742/14. owing to W.S.4.B. being delayed one day, B.S.11½ will now sail (date).
(C.in C. E.I. 0634Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

COLOMBO, CERES.

COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa p.m./16 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu. CERES is to proceed to Mombasa so as to arrive with about 20% fuel. COLOMBO inform CERES of her route so that ships may meet if possible.
(C.in C. E.I. 0630Z/15).

Assab bombed.

Summary No. 186. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 15/12 following night sorties by 8 Squadron attacked supply dept., Assab 1715 1 Blenheim dropped low level stick overshooting target. Building in Barrack area hit and left burning. 2055 1 Blenheim dropped low level stick overshooting to south. Damage improbable. One Blenheim 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. All times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1549/15).

Trade Protection.

Your 0830/11. There ~~was~~ are generally some 350 merchant ships on East Indies Stn. spread over say ten main ocean routes. Routes most exposed to raider attack are (a) Cape to Colombo to Achin Head. (b) Australia to or past Colombo (c) Australia to Cape. Route (a) is by far the densest for it often carries some 100 ships and it must therefore have first call on ships available for protection. A modified Convoy system so proposed is obviously not practicable on this route, except possibly very occasionally from Colombo to Achin Head area. More ships would be necessary before I could co-operate with the system on route (b) and (c). On sparse routes such as these I think system (if there are enough suitable escorts to operate it and sailings can be synchronized) has prospect of success but I suggest all ships should keep within visibility distance of escort otherwise some may be sunk without others knowing it. If object of system is to sink raider (as opposed to protecting ships) the escort must be capable of high speed, which A.M.Cs. do not possess. My 1548/12 refers.
(C.in C. E.I. 1750Z/15). (to TRENB)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

"Q" Report.

Following intercepted by Algoa Bay Radio at 1554Z/15. Q Q Q Q 028° 35'S., 039° 08' E being followed. Groups missing. Signal strength weak.
(C.in C. E.I. 2018Z/15).

Cancel my 2018/15 ship was BERWICKSHIRE in touch with CARTHAGE.
(C.in C. E.I. 2230Z/15).

America and West Indies.

ROCKINGHAM STANLEY.

Sailed for U.K. 1345 G.M.T./14
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1210/15).
Route (F.O.3 B.S. 1116/15).

REVENGE PENNLAND COLOMBIA.

Intend to comply with F.O. 3 B.S. 1527/14 so far as escort for REVENGE is concerned. Consider 3 destroyers inadequate for PENNLAND and COLOMBIA and intend to attach one or 2 additional.
(C.in C. W.A. to Adty. 1908/15).

PRINCE ROBERT.

Proceed at 0830/15 inaccordance your 1251/9
(Collac 0835/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Force K.

Your 1917/24. Request general policy for operation(s) of Force K (corrupt group) (? communicated to) me particulars on following points. (a) confirmation that Force K will act under my orders when operating against raiders within A. and W.I. Station limits, observing a considerable area of raider activity lies within these limits, particularly to N E of Leeward Is. (b) (?will) C.in C. S.A. (? or Adty.) initiate operation in refitting aircraft carriers (? used for operation) (corrupt group) is based Trinidad . (c) Whether it is intended force must always remain concentrated if

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Force K. (Contd.)

presence of pocket battleship is suspected in the area, to have one eight-inch (? cruiser is considered) sufficient support for aircraft carriers.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2151/14 to Adty).

China.

Free French Movement.

From de Schompre for de Gaulle, reporting 80% of French population of Cochin China sympathetic to Free French movement and making certain suggestions.
(C.in C. China to Adty. 0559Z/15).

OLE JACOB (Captured 10/11) TEDDY (sunk 14/11.)

My 0458Z/14. It is now certain OLE JACOB was in company with raider on 16/11. OLE JACOB encountered raider in position 006° 30' N., 090° 13' E on 10/11. TEDDY encountered raider in position 005 30'N., 086° 30'E on 8/11 was again in company with raider on 13/11 and was sunk 14/11. Positions approx.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 0301Z/15 to C.in C. E.I.)

Burma Road.

Your tel. of 16/11. Naval officer returning from Chungking reports Burma road in full operation. New diversion road and Mekong Bridge open. Old Bridge slightly damaged but apparently serviceable Salween bridge slightly damaged but open. Diversion road for new ferry above bridge being rapidly constructed. Some small bridges on road bombed but none out of action. Many bridges duplicated.
(C.in C. China, 0307Z/15 to Ambassador, Tokyo).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Japanese Fleet.

Your 1219/12 W/T and direction finding intelligence during period referred to shows majority of combined fleet units in vicinity of Tokyo Bay. Request original source of your information and whether position at Sasebo is confirmed.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0356Z/15 to N.A.Washington).

French General Indo-China.

My 0841/31. Intercepted letter from General Ayme in Djibouti to his wife in Saigon indicated he will relieve General de Rendinger and will travel via Madagascar or via Siberia. He has arranged plain language cable code with wife. Request any further information be signalled to me.
(C.O.I.S.Singapore 0426Z/15 to S.O.(I)'s Colombo, Capetown etc.)

Australia.

A.C.N.B's 0710/9. In view of increasing raider activities in Australasian Waters, and to provide a relief for GLASGOW damaged in the mediterranean the following redispositions have been approved and are to be put into effect:-

(a) WESTRALIA to return to Australia as soon as possible.

(b) SOUTHAMPTON to join the Mediterranean Fleet on completion of her duties with Convoy W.S.4B, a.m. 1917/24 para. 5(b) (iv), a single cruiser escort being accepted on the Durban- Durban/Aden route.

(c) SYDNEY to return to Australia on relief by SOUTHAMPTON.

(d) PERTH from Red Sea Force to join the Mediterranean Fleet as convenient, a reduction in the scale of surface and A/A protection in Red Sea being accepted. It is intended that four HUNT Class destroyers shall join the Red Sea Force (date).
(D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 to A.C.N.B. C.in C. Med., C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

A.C.N.B's 0710/9 and a.m. 0120/15).
Need for fast modern minesweepers to work with Mediterranean Fleet is particularly urgent at present, when our opportunities for taking the offensive are increasing. Owing to the large incidence of minesweeper casualties in Home Waters reinforcements from here are not possible. Hoped you will agree to the following allocation of BATHURST minesweepers:-

1st pair to Mediterranean.
2nd pair to remain in Australia.
3rd pair to Mediterranean.
(D.O.D.(F) 0121/15 to A.C.N.B).

FIONA collision.

James Patrick steamer CARDROSS sunk following collision with steamer FIONA 34.07 S., 151.32 E. 1700Z/14. No lives lost. FIONA damaged but making port. (A.C.N.B. 0500Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RIO GRANDE
RHEIN
KLAUS
SCHOKE
PORTLAND
BRAKE
JOAO PESSOA
MADRID.

My 1927/6. German ships RIO GRANDE, RHEIN, KLAUS SCHOKE all scuttled. PORTLAND arrival Talcahuano from Coquimbo 4/12/-. (? Sailing from) Vigo German tanker BRAKE 10/12 and (JOAO PESSOA 12/12. (? departs) from Las Palmas MADRID 11/12. (C.in C. S.A. 1551/15 to S.A. Sqdn.)

JOAO PESSOA.

Tel. No.83. JOAO PESSOA arrived from Vigo 0300/15 Bilbao.
(Bilbao 1735/15 to Adty).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U-Boat Campaign

A.M.C's LAURENTIC and PATROCLUS were torpedoed about 145 and 160 miles west of Ireland respectively, between 2200 and 2300 today, and sank later.
SS CASANARE was torpedoed in the same area earlier in the evening.

British Air Activity

Owing to adverse weather conditions all operations last night were cancelled.

Weather conditions today also forced most aircraft of Bomber Command to abandon their tasks.

Patrols in the southern North Sea and Channel were also abandoned.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

WINDSOR CASTLE (19141 tons) was bombed and machine-gunned this morning, about 180 miles W.S.W. of Bloody Foreland. Little damage is reported, but the ship is said to have U.X.B's lodged on board. BULLDOG was sent to escort her to the Clyde.

Convoy W.N. 29 was attacked off Rattray Head this evening. EROS was damaged and taken in tow by CHALLENGER to aberdeen. KILDALE (3877 tons) was also hit and sank later.

It is reported that SS VICTORIA (Greek 4202 tons) was bombed and sunk about 100 miles N.W. of Ireland at 0630/30/10.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary.

A.P. Vessel GEORGE AND ANNIE was mined and sunk off Hartlepool this morning, whilst engaged in sweeping.

Belgian Trawler 293 and motor boat LADY DRUSIE were mines in Milford Haven approach channel this morning.

Belfast is closed.

Port Talbot remains closed. Other Bristol Channel ports are to be opened this morning.

Mines were found today in Milford Haven, Firth of Forth, Tyne, off Hartlepool, Harwich, in Inverness Firth Approaches.

Mines exploded close to VIMIERA N.E. of the Swin and near R.A.F. H.S.L. 112 off Yarmouth.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

MILAN (light cruiser) passed Gibraltar westbound this morning. Sloop L
LA BATAILLEUSE escorting 4 French submarines and 2 French M.V's passed Gibraltar at 1700 today, eastbound.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD left patrol off the Azores at midnight 3/4 Nov. to return to Gibraltar.

An Italian U-Boat was apparently chased by our destroyers into Tangier at 1750 where the U-Boat secured alongside.

A patrol is being established. Consul General Tangier reports that its batteries are run down and are being charged. The duration of stay is not known.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterrancan

Italian W/T communique states that two of their submarines are overdue.

East Indies

Three attacks were made today by Blenheims on underground oil tanks at Assab. All bombs fell in the Target area.

America & West Indies

U.S.Destroyers are patrolling off French West Indian ports to keep in touch with French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

3 destroyers from Plymouth carried out a sweep last night along the French coast from Roches Douvres westward.

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

LEWES, LINCOLN and LUDLOW searched the position of the attack on Convoy H.X. 84 for 3 hours ~~today~~ on 6/11 without finding any sign of wreckage, but the weather and visibility were very bad.

BONAVENTURE and HASHONA were detached by REPULSE at 0400 today and made a short search to leeward of the position of attack and at 1800 set course to R.V. with REPULSE. No trace of wreckage or boats was sighted.

HOOD and forces in company left their patrol area west of Lands End at 2000 today to refuel.

AUSTRALIA left the Clyde at 2100 today to relieve RENOWN in covering homeward bound convoys H.G. 46, S.L. 53B and S.L.F. 53.

On relief RENOWN is to join ARGUS and DESPATCH for operation "WHITE"

WORCESTERSHIRE of the Northern Patrol is ordered to join C. in C., H.F.

SOUTHAMPTON is being sent to fuel in Iceland, then to patrol Denmark Straits.

NELSON is patrolling N.E. by night and S.W. by day about position 63° 2' N., 11° 22' W.,(Iceland-Faroes passage)

C. in C., H.F. has asked that air search should be redesigned with primary object of locating during daylight a raider endeavouring to pass through the Iceland-Faroes passage northabout during following night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

R.A.F. carried out special patrols North and West of the Faroes, between Faroes and Iceland, and a cross-over patrol 300 miles S.W. of Lands End.

Attacks

5 Blenheims last night attacked the Naval Base at Lorient. Single aircraft attacked the inland port of Duisburg-Ruhrort, locks on the Dortmund-Ems Canal at Herne, a large ship at Dunkirk, a gun position at Ouessant and other non-naval objectives.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 29 Attacked

Convoy F.N. 29 was attacked off the Thames Estuary at 1352. SS FIREGLOW (1261 tons) was damaged and taken in tow by SUNFIRE. One ship (?AGAMEMNON, Dutch 1930 tons) was sunk either by bomb or mine. Our fighters destroyed 15 enemy dive bombers during this attack, and in addition WINCHESTER destroyed 2 dive bombers and damaged three. Immediately after this attack, WINCHESTER was damaged by a mine and had to anchor, and whilst at anchor she was again attacked by enemy aircraft and damaged by near misses.

WINCHESTER
SS FIREGLOW
Damaged

SS AGAMEMNON
Sunk

CATTISTOCK
Slightly damaged

The convoy was again attacked by aircraft at 1615 and CATTISTOCK suffered superficial damage.

SS EMPIRE DORADO
Damaged

SS EMPIRE DORADO in convoy O.B. 239 was bombed and damaged about noon today, about 300 miles West of Bloody Foreland. Tugs have been sent to assistance.

SS VINGALAND

SS VINGALAND ex Convoy H.X. 84 was bombed and abandoned on fire this morning, 300 miles West of Ireland.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected between Falmouth and Plymouth and in the Thames Estuary, Harwich, Humber, Flamborough Head, Solway Firth, Bristol Channel and Milford Haven.

Plymouth was closed this morning.
Blyth was closed at 2321. Milford Haven was opened this afternoon.
Mines were found off Harwich, South Foreland and Milford Haven.

C. in C., W.A. reports that minelaying occurs every night in the approaches to Plymouth and mines have been laid in the Hamoaze and Narrows, apparently from above the Balloon Barrage. Ships now berthed up harbour could not proceed to the sound without considerable risk.
He asks for additional A.A. guns or night fighting aircraft; the present effective military weapons ~~at~~ are 2 Bofors guns.

WINCHESTER Damaged

WINCHESTER was damaged by a mine off the Thames Estuary and had to anchor, immediately after the attack on her convoy (F.N. 29) this afternoon by dive bombers.

Tug Sunk

A tug (? Rescue tug MURIA) was mined and sunk off Ramsgate this afternoon.

A.N. 2. Sunk

A.N.2. (Harbour Defence Patrol Craft) was sunk by mine off Falmouth this afternoon.

Operation B.N. 44.

1st M.L.Sqdn. with ADVENTURE, escorted by 3 destroyers laid mines off the N.W. coast of Iceland p.m. today.

British A/C Minelaying

One mine was laid off Lorient and one off Brest last night.

Danish Ferry Mined

The Swedish Press reports that on 5/11 the ferry between Helsingborg and Elsinore was mined off Elsinore but was not badly damaged.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE with DELHI and MILFORD are patrolling off the Cameroons in order to intercept Vichy shipping.

Attack on Libreville

C.S.1. reports that Free French report small parties landed near Libreville and main force now landing.

Mediterranean

R.A.F. today bombed the foreshore at Tobruk, damaging the Naval Barracks. Dernja barracks was also bombed.

Alexandria was bombed this evening. No damage or casualties resulted.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

SS DELFINUS

STURGEON reports that on 6/11 she sank SS DELFINUS (Ex Norwegian 1293 tons) off Ekeresund and on 3/11 a 2000 ton west bound enemy merchant vessel in the Skagerrak.

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

7/11

LEAMINGTON and LEEDS swept through the position of attack but found no signs of wreckage.

British Air Activity

Routine patrols were considerably curtailed on account of unfavourable weather and only those in the southern North Sea and Western Channel were flown.

Special searches were flown today for the ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Aircraft of Bomber Command last night attacked Channel Ports; no notable results were observed, except at Flushing where the docks were straddled and a very large explosion and fires caused.

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked submarines at Lorient. All bombs are considered to have dropped in the target area.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS EMPRESS OF JAPAN

SS EMPRESS OF JAPAN (26032 tons) was attacked twice this morning, 150 miles west of Ireland. One engine was disabled but the ship proceeded on one engine to Gourock (arrived 1420/10)

SHELLBRIT II Damaged

Tanker SHELLBRIT II in Shoreham Harbour was damaged by a bomb at 1740 today.

Convoy F.S. 30 Attacked

Convoy F.S. 30 was attacked early this afternoon off Harwich, no damage is reported.

Four Attacks on F.N. 30.
VANITY Damaged

Convoy F.N. 30 was attacked off Harwich at 1248, 1316, 1357 and 1645. SCOTTISH HEATHER (Tanker on Government Charter) was damaged by near miss and put in to Methil. In the last attack the escorting Anson drove off the enemy, which appeared to be damaged. In the earlier attacks ships claim to have damaged one enemy aircraft and VANITY believes she shot one down.

Enemy Aircraft

SS SCOTTISH HEATHER Damaged

LUDLOW Attacked

LUDLOW (Town class destroyer) returning from the search for survivors of Convoy H.X. 84 was bombed 17 miles from Farnad Head but no damage is reported.

C. in C. W.A. reports that the danger of air attacks on independently routed fast merchant ships has reached serious proportions. He considers these ships should have both long range and short range A.A weapons. The aircraft mainly responsible for these attacks are available to the enemy only in small numbers and are costly and slow to build. C. in C., W.A. considers that their bases should be attacked.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night took place off the Humber and Liverpool Bay and possibly also in the Thames Estuary. There were indications early this morning of a minelaying U-Boat off Cromarty Firth, but no A/S vessels were available in the Rosyth Command to hunt and weather did not permit aircraft to take off.
Ports Affected:-
Blyth Opened 1244. Falmouth opened 1436.
Plymouth: Mine detonated and 5 mines exploded spontaneously; H/S Trawler ELK was damaged by explosion of another mine.
South Foreland: One mine and 2 cutters found
Morecambe Bay: Ports of Fleetwood, Lancaster and Heysham closed 1750.

ELK Damaged

SS BEAL Damaged

SS BEAL was mined this evening, position not stated, and was brought by tug to Middlesborough.

SS BALTRADER Sunk

SS BALTRADER (1699 tons) in convoy F.S. 30 was mined and sunk in Barrow Deep this afternoon.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

French sloops SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and DOMINE entered Libreville this afternoon and report BOUGAINVILLE set on fire and abandoned.

North Atlantic

Submarines for Mediterranean Fleet

UPRIGHT arrived at Gibraltar this eveing URSULA has defects and UTMOST is undergoing repair.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Port Said was bombed last night, but no damage occurred.

Blenheims maintained a fighter patrol over Athens today.

Operation "Coat"

Yesterday one S. 79 shadowing Forces H. and F. was shot down by fighters. At 1330 ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, GLASGOW and 6 destroyers proceeded ahead for the attack on Cagliari. The Striking force of 9 Swordfish flew off at 0430 and all returned by 0805. Several hits were obtained on Hangers and buildings, and a direct hit on the power station. At 0745 three Fulmars flew off for Malta. Forces F (reinforcements for Medtn. Fleet) and B (remainder of Force) concentrated at 0920. One shadowing Cant was shot down at 1005. At 1120 the force was bombed but no ship was hit. Fighters probably damaged one or more of the enemy. Force F parted company at 1915 in 37° 55' N 9° 10' E. The operation was handicapped by many changes in personnel in ARK ROYAL and by inexperienced pilots.

F.A.A. Attack on Cagliari

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

West Indies

3 Blenheims today attacked quays and the destroyer base at Nassauwa and scored hits on the former. Considerable damage is believed to have been inflicted.

China

As from 15/11 export licenses will be refused for all goods shipped to Indo-China from U.K. and colonial ports.

Australia

A second ship has been sunk off S.E. Australia. SS RAYVILLE sank off Cape Otway last night, minelaying being suspected. Bass Strait has been closed to shipping.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

REPULSE reported at 1800 that she had swept through 55° N., 30° W., 56° N., 32° W, 60° N., 27° W. Tw destroyers are in company.
No sign of wreckage was seen, but the weather and visibility were very bad.

SOUTHAMPTON from Denmark Straits patrol is proceeding to Belfast for Operation "COLLAR"

Home Fleet units are patrolling the Iceland Faroes passage

The Shetland Command was abolished today and Flag Officer Commanding, Orkney resumed the functions of Flag Officer Commanding Orkney and Shetland, (A.C.O.S.) Executive control of all defence operations in the Shetlands in event of hostile action will be exercised by the Army Officer in local command of Army units.

SEA GEM Missing

Tug SEA GEM from Middleborough 30/10 due Dundee 31/10 has not arrived. All enquiries have failed to trace the ship.

MONIQUE

Lloyds state that the French tanker MONIQUE (7011 tons) which left Oran 6/6 homeward bound from Haifa is reported to have been sunk off the coast of France later in that month.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

The submarine base at Lorient was attacked last night. Results were not observed.

Attacks were made today on Boulogne and Calais. At the former, bursts were seen on a concentration of barges and on Dock No. 6. At Calais Docks Nos 5 and 6 were hit.

Coastal Command

Aircraft of Coastal Command also attacked the submarine base at Lorient last night. The power station was straddled and a heavy calibre bomb appeared to fall on the dry dock and another on the T.B. Station or its oiling jetty.

Routine patrols were extended to the Norwegian and Danish coasts.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

This morning, a single enemy aircraft dropped 18 small H.E. bombs in Dover Harbour and at the same time another aircraft dropped a similar number in the sea north east of Dungeness. No damage or casualties occurred at either place. The attacks appeared deliberate and not mere jettisoning, and V.A.Dover suggests that these and similar occurrences previously may be attempts to countermine our land mine defences or locate them.

Portsmouth was bombed this evening. No naval damage occurred.

Bombs were dropped this morning on several S.E. Coast Towns. The Naval Hospital and R.N. Barracks at Yarmouth was slightly damaged.

ROYAL EAGLE was unsuccessfully bombed in the Thames Estuary this afternoon.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was evident last night in the Thames Estuary-Harwich-North Foreland and probably off the North-East coast of England. Mines were dropped in Penzance and Newlyn areas and these ports were closed at 1330.

Mines were found off Knob L.V., and in Fowey Channel (slightly damaging a Belgian fishing vessel)

Last night, more mines were dropped by enemy aircraft in the approaches to Plymouth, and C. in C., W.A. estimates there are at least 15 mines situated within one mile of the breakwater lighthouse.

ST MELANTE — M/STrawler ST MELANTE detonated one today and was damaged.

KINGSTON ALALITE — A/STrawler KINGSTON ALALITE was sunk in the searched channel this afternoon in a position which had been swept and passed over by several sweepers during the day.

NEWCASTLE, due to leave yesterday for an operation simultaneous with Operation "White" has not been sailed and no certain date can be given when it will be safe to do so. The port is closed.

MARCELLE
Sunk

Belgian Balloon trawler MARCELLE was sunk in the Bristol Channel today, believed mined (D.S. D.O.R.)

Fleetwood, Lancaster and Heysham were opened this afternoon. Humber and Milford Haven were closed this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Libreville was occupied by Free French today.

North Atlantic

RENOWN on relief p.m. today by AUSTRALIA in covering homeward bound Atlantic convoys left for Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

ROYAL SOVEREIGN left Freetown this afternoon to cover Convoys S.L.S54 and S.L. 54 as far as the latitude of Madeira, after which ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to proceed to Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Enemy aircraft last night bombed Matruh without result. Bombs were also dropped in the Alexandria area this evening but no damage or casualties were caused. A single plane, after a prolonged reconnaissance of the Canal Area dropped 10 bombs without causing any damage yesterday morning.

Convoy M.E. 3 escorted by RAMILLIES (arrived Malta p.m/9 with COVENTRY, 8 destroyers, a minesweeper and an oiler) left Malta p.m. today for Alexandria.

TERROR left Malta at 1400 today with VENDETTA for Suda Bay where she is to act as guard ship temporarily.

Operation "Coat"

Force F (BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, GRIFFIN GREYHOUND, and GALLANT) joined C. in C., Meditn. at 1015 today and entered Malta 2 hours later to disembark troops and to fuel. During the outward passage of the Meditn. Fleet ILLUSTRIOUS shot down two Cants and 2 S.79's. All ships of the Meditn. Fleet cleared the Grand Harbour by 2020 for offensive operations inthe Ionian Sea. During the stay of the Fleet at Malta the only enemy air operation was a reconnaissance by fighters, one of which dived and machine-gunned Hal Far, slightly damaging one Swordfish.

Bombardment of Sidi Barrani

Last night, APHIS working with a flare dropping aircraft successfully bombarded enemy positions at Sidi Barrani. The Shore Batteries returned her fire, but caused no damage.

Air Attacks Naples

5 Wellingtons bombed Naples successfully last night.

Sarande Konispol Bay

3 Blenheims today attacked the harbour at Sarande on the Albanian coast and jetties at Konispol Bay (Greek Albanian frontier) At Sarande one bomb fell near a [illegible]000 ton merchant vessel and other bombs damaged docks. At Konispol Bay a jetty was demolished and a road junction damaged.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

At 1341Z roday Norwegian SS OLE JACOBS reported being shelled between Colombo and Penang. The message was then cancelled but C. in C., E.I. did not consider the cancellation genuine. At 1430Z an incomplete message of a disguised raider was received, near Comor Is.
This report was cancelled at 1508Z, the cancellation being considered genuine.
C. in C., E.I. ordered CAPETOWN (from Nancowry) CANBERRA, WESTRALIA, and DURBAN (at Penang) to search, these ships to be known as Force V. CRICKET is returning to Nancowry and H.Q. Far East have been asked to send a flying boat there.

CHAKDINA with BHIMA in tow and tug PROTECTOR in company has not been in W/T touch since 2022Z/9 when she was N.E. of Sokotra, in approximately the centre of a cyclonic storm reported by KANDAHAR about 1200Z/9. SHROPSHIRE has been sent to search for CHAKDINA and assist, and should arrive in the area a.m. tomorrow.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

American & West Indies

Reports indicate the possibility that enemy merchant vessels in Mexican Gulf ports may attempt to sail in the near futire. DIOMEDE and VAN KINSBERGEN are at the Eastern end of the Caribbean Sea. (See 6/11) and the latter is due for refit when CARADOC's Turbine defects are completed. C. in C., A.W.I. asks for the return of DESPATCH and DUNEDIN as soon as they can be spared.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

REPULSE and BONAVENTURE arrived at Scapa this morning. BONAVENTURE left again at 2305 for further search of the position of attack of Convoy H.X. 84.

The oiler ERODONA of Convoy H.X. 84 informed BONAVENTURE on 1700/7 that she saw JERVIS BAY sunk by the raider on 5/11.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

3 Blenheims today attacked docks at Lorient, where two factories at the west end of the wet dock were hit.

A large fire was started at the oil refinery at Bremen last night.

Channel ports and docks in Holland were attacked last night. A Direct hit is believed to have been made on a merchant vessel at Le Havre but otherwise no special results are reported.

Two Hampdens bombed Danzig.

Coastal Command

3 Beauforts dropped heavy calibre bombs on the submarine base at Lorient this morning Hits are estimated on workshops and on the dry dock.

One Blenheim dropped bombs on Cherbourg at 0005.

Special patrols in connection with the search for the ADMIRAL SCHEER were flown today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on F.N.32 and F.S. 32 by Italian Aircraft

Convoys F.N. 32 and F.S. 32 were attacked apparently by a formation of Italian bombers escorted by about 40 Italian fighters whilst two convoys were passing one another in the Thames Estuary shortly after noon and (F.S. 32) again about 1½ hours later.

Three ships were damaged, SS ILSE (2844 tons) SS CORSEA (2764 tons) (anchored at Southend) SS COLONEL CROMPTON (1495 tons) (towed to Southend) SS CORDUFF had an U.X.B. on board. (anchored at the Nore)

Air Ministry report 13 enemy aircraft were destroyed by fighters, plus 6 damaged. LONDONDERRY claims to have shot down one plane, tug ST. MELLONS claims to have destroyed one aircraft by a direct hit with 12 pdr. and to have diabled a second which was finished off by fighters. Admiralty communique states that VIVIEN shot down one and severely damaged a second.

Shortly after the attack VEGA was mined (see mining)

Convoy E.N. 23 Attacked SS TREBARTHA Sunk SS CREEMUIR Sunk SS HARLAW Damaged

Convoy E.N. 23 was attacked by enemy aircraft off Montrose early today and again S.E. of Aberdeen late this afternoon. In the second attack SS CREEMUIR (3997 tons) was torpedoed and sunk and SS HARLAW damaged by bombs and entered Aberdeen., SS TREBARTHA (4597 tons) was holed and set on fire and sank later in Cove Bay; it is reported that the crew were machine-gunned whilst abandoning the ship.

SARPEDON

H.M.Tarwler SARPEDON was machine-gunned off Ramsgate this afternoon and had 6 casualties. Her 12 pdr. gun was damaged.

SS BALMORE

SS BALMORE (1925 tons) was bombed about 230 miles west of Dingle Bay this morning ROCHESTER was detached from the escort of Convoy O.B. 240 to try to locate her, but was unsuccessful and abandoned the search after 5 hours. 17 men remain on board BALMORE which is sinking and has no boats left.

/SS PITWINES...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity- Contd.

SS PITWINES (932 tons) was bombed this morning off Yarmouth and was undamaged, but had two casualties caused by an accident whilst engaging the enemy.

SS BARON MINTO — SS BARON MINTO ashore at Rattray Head was bombed this afternoon.

SS RAVNANGER — SS RAVNANGER (Norwegian 3371) was sunk by enemy air attack off the Tees today.

Damage was caused in an attack on St. Merryn this afternoon.

Several south east coast town were bombed today.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft was indicated in the Thames Estuary and between the Wash and Usworth and probably in the Bristol Channel and off the Cornish coast.

Mines were found in the Thames Estuary, off Humber, South Foreland, Margate (where M.V. GRIT had her electric steering gear put out of action by near explosion but suffered no structural damage) off Milford Haven (where 5 ground mines were self detonated)

Humber was opened at 1045, Milford Haven at 1144, Blyth was closed at 1849.

VEGA Damaged — VEGA escorting Convoy F.S. 32 was damaged by mine in the Thames Estuary this morning and was towed to Harwich.

STELLA ORION Sunk — M/S Trawler STELLAORION was damaged by a mine in the Thames Estuary this morning and foundered after being taken in tow. (D.O.R.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

It is reported that RICHELIEU was to leave Dakar 9/11 for Algiers.

No submarine will be available for Straits patrol until 12/11, by which date Force H will have returned to Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. intends to establish a submarine patrol a.m./14 to intercept JEAN BART and RICHELIEU, should they attempt to pass through the Straits.

North Atlantic

S.O. Force H in ARK ROYAL, with SHEFFIELD and 5 destroyers returned to Gibraltar this morning.

Operation "White"

Two destroyers left Gibraltar this morning to R.V. with ARGUS and DESPATCH (due Gibraltar 13/11)

South Atlantic

An enemy unit was located by D/F today in mid Atlantic, about the latitude of Freetown.

BULOLO and BRIDGEWATER are patrolling south of Freetown and DRAGON further S.E. of Cape Palmas to prevent French warships going to west African ports, intercept French merchant ships, and control neutral traffic to French West African ports.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterrancan

Air Attacks on Egypt

There were two air raids on Alexandria last night. In the First, it is believed bombs were jettisoned far to seaward. No naval or military damage was caused in the second raid.

Between 2040 and 2100 today bombs were dropped along the coast S.E. of Aboulir, at Helwan, Suez and 8 miles S.E. of Kabrit. At Suez, the lighthouse and Govt. buildings were set on fire. No other damage is reported.

East Indies

At 0207Z today Matara intercepted from SS AUTOMEDON an incomplete raider report which was purposely jammed; the figures 418 North were read. SS AUTOMEDON left Durban 29/10 for Penang when she was due 13/11.

SHROPSHIRE made contact with CHANDINA and BHIMA ~~DINAR~~ in tow this morning (local time) All PROTECTOR was well. ~~CHANDINA~~ was last seen about 0700/9; SHROPSHIRE and oiler SLAVOL are searching.

3 Blenheims today attacked the main quays and destroyer base at Massawa, but the bombs fell in the town.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

F.O.C. 15th C.S. in NAIAD with REPULSE and 4 Tribal destroyers left Scapa 1230 today to take over the Iceland-Faroes patrol from C. in C. Home Fleet. LETITIA joins the force tomorrow from the Clyde. WORCESTERSHIRE was withdrawn from Northern Patrol this evening.

British Air Activity

(1)

Activity was seriously curtailed by the weather today. The only patrols carried out were a few in the southern area.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today. Coastal Command carried out no operations against Naval Objectives today.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.B. 242

Convoy O.B. 242 was bombed early this afternoon in the approach to North Channel. No details received.

(2)

SS LILY

SS LILY (Greek 5719 tons) in Convoy S.C.10 reported being bombed this morning about 50 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

BRITISH MARINER

BRITISH MARINER (Tanker 6996 tons) was machine gunned off Start Point at 1430 today.

Attack on Convoys FN 32 and FS 32

It is now stated that VIVIEN destroyed two (not one) enemy planes and severely damaged a third, and that VIMIERA destroyed two. (D.S. 435)

Considerable damage was caused in the town in an attack on Ramsgate this afternoon.

MOST SECRET

12.11.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation
S.N. 43

1st M.L.S. this afternoon completed the laying of a line of mines in the North Western Approaches.

T.H.V. ARGUS

Trinity House Vessel ARGUS was sunk by a mine in the Thames Estuary this afternoon.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night probably took place off the East Coast and in the Thames Estuary.

Several mines detonated spontaneously at Plymouth last night, but the channel cannot be considered clear. NEWCASTLE is still held up.

Two mines self detonated at Milford Haven today.

Operations Against Vichy French

Air Reconnaissance for RICHELIEU (see 11/11) was established to westward of the Straits of Gibraltar at dawn today.
ARK ROYAL is at short notice ready to proceed to sea and fly off striking force if ordered to attack. RENOWN arrived this afternoon and with 2 destroyers was fuelled and kept at short notice.

South Atlantic

HERMES left Simonstown this afternoon to establish a patrol south of 200 miles south of Cape of Good Hope, supplemented by patrol by S.A.A.F. within 200 miles of the Cape, to intercept 5 Vichy French merchant vessels reported leaving Madagascar 6/11 for Dakar.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Straits of Otranto Raid. Convoy Destroyed

The 7th C.S. with NUBIAN and MOHAWK last night carried out a raid into the Straits of Otranto. A convoy of 4 merchant ships escorted by 2 destroyers proceeding westward was encountered at 0115 off Valona. One merchant ship was sunk, two left burning and almost certainly sunk, and one escaped in a smoke screen, but was probably damaged. The escorting destroyers escaped, though one was hit. Our ships suffered no damage or casulaties.

F.A.A. Attack on Taranto

Aircraft of Fleet Air Arm last night attacked Taranto and preliminary reports state one LITTORIO and 2 CAVOUR class battleships hit by torpedo. The bombing results were not observed, though fires were started. 2 Swordfish were lost.
From preliminary examination of photographs it appears that one LITTORIO class is badly damage but not sunk.
One CAVOUR is beached to avoid sinking and is half under water, a second CAVOUR apparently damaged and believed beached, 2 cruisers have lists and are surrounded by oil fuel, and 2 auxiliaries appear to have their sterns under water.

R.A.F. attack on Valona

R.A.F. last night carried out an extremely successful raid on Sordinori Valona. Two large ships were burning fiercely about 16 miles west of Valona about 0300. The fires were so fierce that Tankers are suggested. About 2340/11 G.M.T. Taranto broadcast S.O.S. from Italian SS RAMB III (3667 tons) and ANTONIO LOCATELLI (Tanker 5691 tons) Stating they were being bombarded off Valona.

R.A.F. Attack on Benghasi Derna Bardia

R.A.F. last night attacked shipping at Benghasi and aerodrome at Berca. Derna, Tobruk and Bardia were also bombed.

/ R.A.F.....

MOST SECRET

12.11.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

R.A.F. Attacks on Durazzo

R.A.F. operating from Tatoi made a successful attack on Durazzo last night. The fuel depot is reported to have been completely burned out.

3 Blenheims bombed Durazzo again today, bombs bursting on the quayside amongst cranes and warehouses and on petrol dumps and a power station.

Air Raids on Alexandria

Two bombs were dropped during two air raids on Alexandria this evening. No damage or casualties resulted.

East Indies

On 8/11 an Italian aircraft en route to Italian East Africa landed in Crete. Her cargo was lubricating oil, indicating that the Italians are short.
COLOMBO left Mombasa a.m. (local time) to establish a patrol off Kismayu to prevent any supplies reaching Italian East Africa.
A Blenheim bombed Assab today.

America & West Indies

QUEEN ELIZABETH left New York today.

DIOMEDE left patrol off Martinique (to intercept CHARLES M see 7/11) to cover QUEEN ELIZABETH during her call at Trinidad.

Town class destroyers LANCASTER, MANSFIELD SHERWOOD, CHESTERFIELD sailed from St.Johns N.F. for the U.K. today. STANLEY was delayed by defects.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

JAGUAR and JUPITER last night carried out a patrol between Eddystone and 3° W.

H.M.Drifter THE BOYS Lost

H.M.Drifter THE BOYS foundered in violent weather at 0800 today, whilst in tow near South Goodwin buoy.

Enemy Barges

Bomber Command aircraft report having sighted 300 barges stationary without lights off Terschelling at 2300 today.

FAME

An attempt to refloat FAME today failed and it is anticipated that the destroyer suffered further damage.

British Air Activity

Security patrols were extended today to visibility distance of the Norwegian and Danish coasts. A reconnaissance of the coast from Trondheim to Stadlandet and an offensive patrol as far as possible into the Skaggerak were carried out.

Patrols in connection with the search for the ADMIRAL SCHEER were again flown N.W. of the Butt of Lewis to 17° W., and also covering the French Biscay ports.

Specially equipped Whitley aircraft carried out A/S sweeps in the Western Approaches.

Single aircraft attacked Calais, the docks and shipyards at Wilhelmshaven, and docks at Bremerhaven.

Enemy Air Activity

SS FISHPOOL Bombed

SS FISHPOOL in Convoy O.B. 242 was bombed this morning about 250 miles west of Malin Head and was apparently damaged (tugs ordered to be sent 17/11)

/Air Attack.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Air Attack on Dover
SHIPMATES Sunk
LORD HOWE YORKSHIRE LASS CIRRUS Damaged

Dover was bombed this afternoon, when H.M. drifter SHIPMATES was sunk in the Submarine basin, and H.M.Drifters LORD HOWE, YORKSHIRE LASS and M/L CIRRUS were damaged. Some damage was caused to buildings in the dockyard. The enemy aircraft incurred heavy losses from our fighters.

M.L. 120

M.L. 120 on passage to Sheerness had casualties to all her 6 upper deck ratings this afternoon from 2 very low flying M.E. 109's which presented easy targets. M.L. 120's machine gun jammed after firing 2 rounds.

SS ST. CATHERINE

SS ST. CATHERINE (1216 tons) was sunk by torpedo from an enemy aircraft while proceeding from Aberdeen to join Convoy E.N.25 this evening.

SS LILY

(Bombed 12/11) Arrived in the Clyde today.

Mining

Operation B.S. 46

TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER, with ICARUS laid a further line of mines in the East Coast Mine Barrier today.

Enemy Minelaying

Mines were found today in the Thames Estuary, Tyne, Hartlepool, Plymouth.

Minelaying on a heavy scale took place in the Firth of Forth last night. The positions of 13 mines reported falling were noted.

3 mines were exploded off the Humber today and a mine was exploded at 1040 one cable on the port beam of T.H.V. STRATHEARN just inside the Humber boom.

/M/S Trawlers.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining- Contd.

M/S Trawler JEAN EDMUNDS Damaged

M/S Trawler JEAN EDMUNDS provoked a mine this afternoon off Inchkeith and was damaged and beached in Granton Harbour.

M.V.FAIRY

M.V.FAIRY (204 tons) was mined off the Humber this morning and was towed into Grimsby Roads. Salvage is being attempted.

Plymouth is open between 0930 and sunset The Humber was closed at 0341 but was reopened at 0928. The Tyne was opened at 1327, but Blyth is still closed.

Operations Against Vichy French

Port Gentil was occupied by Free French Forces at 0830/14. F.O.I.C.S. considers there is little object in continuing the patrol in the Libreville Port Gentil area after 16/11, but in view of our promises to Gen. de Gaulle it is to be maintained for the present.

The French Hospital Ship CANADA sailed from Liverpool at 1100/14 although her safe conduct does not operate until 17/11. C. in C., Western Approaches has ordered WESTCOTT to intercept and send her to Belfast or Clyde until that date.

A Tangier report states that the French cruiser PRIMAUGUET sailed from Casablanca on the night of 11/11 southbound.

Mediterranean

Mediterranean Fleet

The main part of the Mediterranean Fleet returned to Alexandria a.m. from its week's operations in the Central Mediterranean. MALAYA, BARHAM and AJAX were detached on 12/11 to fuel at Suda Bay. During the week ILLUSTRIOUS lost 3 Swordfish aircraft due to forced landings in sea, but all crews were saved. The operations showed the inestimable value of Suda Bay as a fuelling base. Two unsuccessful attempts to bomb the Fleet were made during the operations. A total of 7 enemy aircraft were shot down.

/URSULA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

URSULA
UPRIGHT
UTMOST

The submarines URSULA, UPRIGHT and UTMOST have been placed under the orders of C. in C., Mediterranean, in view of the importance of cutting Italian lines of communication to Libya.

There were 2 air raids on Alexandria this evening. No damage resulted. A destroyer was hit by an incendiary bomb, bit no damage is reported (Air Min D.S.) Egyptian SS ZAMZAM (8299 tons) received considerable damage (D.S. 441)

Blenheims last night successfully bombed shipping at Benghazi, barracks at Derna, Bardia and Sidi Barrani.

APHIS last night bombarded Maktila (East of Sidi Barrani) in cooperation with R.A.F.

R.A.F.Attack Taranto

10 Wellingtons from Malta, attacked Taranto last night. 14-500 lbs of G.P. bombs and 1440 lbs incendiaries were dropped in the eastern part of the main dock in the inner harbour. Two very large explosions and fires were caused. 4500 lbs G.P. bombs and 480lbs incendiaries were dropped on the naval oil tanks and destroyer pens starting fires: a stick of 5 bombs was seen to explode along the wall and pens where many destroyers were docked.

America & West Indies

U.S. Destroyers are patrolling off Tampico and in the Florida Straits to shadow German ships if they attempt to escape.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

13 knot ships to sail independently

In view of the heavy losses in 9 knot convoys by U-Boat Attack in the N.W. Approaches ships of 13 knots speed and above are in future to sail independently as it is thought they will find greater safety by making use of their speed than by inclusion in convoy.

6

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Dover Shelled

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 7 rounds between 0900 and 1030 today, the shells falling near the R.M. Siege Battery.

Operation "Collar"

The following ships sailed today, from Liverpool: FURIOUS and SS NEW ZEALAND STAR escorted by 2 destroyers. From Belfast: CAIRO, SOUTHAMPTON. From Clyde: DIDO with transports FRANCONIA, CLAN FORBES, CLAN FRASER and 3 destroyers. From Scapa: C.S. 18 in MANCHESTER to R.V. with the above forces at 0830 tomorrow, 50 miles W.N.W. of Tory Island.

S.C.Convoy Escorts

C. in C., W.A. proposes to discontinue the use of sloops as ocean escort of Sydney C.B. slow convoys, in view of damage in heavy weather and small value of one sloop as ocean escort.

Convoy H.X. 84

32 ships have now arrived at various ports. Four are reported to have been sunk by the raider, one was sunk subsequently by air attack, and one is unaccounted for.

British Air Activity

F.A.A.

Aircraft of 812 Sqdn., F.A.A., were engaged throughout the night 14-15/11 on mine-laying and attacks on French aerodromes.

Bomber Command

Shipping and docks at Ostend, Dunkirk, Boulogne and Lorient and ships and canal locks at Leuven (near Brussels) were successfully attacked last night. The Wilhelmsburg Oil Refinery at Hamburg was successfully attacked by 14 Hampdens.

No operations were carried out today by Bomber Command, owing to unsuitable weather.

/Coastal Command...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity-Contd.

Coastal Command

3 aircraft attacked the aerodrome at Stavanger this evening. No important results were observed. Boulogne (bombs did not explode) and Zeebrugge Mole were also bombed. At Zeebrugge, direct hits were obtained in the junction of the Mole with the mainland.

Enemy Air Activity

A/P Trawler DUNGENESS Damaged

A/P Trawler DUNGENESS was bombed and beached off Haisborough lighthouse at 0325 but may be refloated.

SS BLUE GALLEON Sunk

Convoy F.N. 34 was attacked off Yarmouth at 0155. SS BLUE GALLEON (712 tons) being bombed and sunk.

SS APAPA Sunk

SS APAPA (9333 tons) In convoy S.L. 53 was bombed at 0930 W. of Ireland and sank at noon.

Coventry Attacked

The Admiralty Establishment suffered severely during the air attack on Coventry last night.

Dover Attacked

Damage was caused in the dockyard and at Dover by air attack this afternoon.

Kites for Convoys

Attacks on shipping by enemy aircraft are now occurring daily. Many of these attacks are made from low altitude which would be frustrated by the flying of kites.
C. in C., W.A. asks that the provision of kites to all ships sailing independently may be hastened and also to ships sailing in convoy, observing that there have been 3 cases of convoys being attacked outside the range of our fighters.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

AMENITY Sunk — M.V. AMENITY (297 tons) was sunk by mine at 0717 off Spurn Head.

GUARDSMAN Sunk — Tug GUARDSMAN was sunk by mine off the North Foreland at 1340.

Mines were exploded in the Thames Estuary.

Blyth is open, but diesel ships can only enter or leave in tow. Tees was opened at 1625.

Operation Z.M.E.1. — ADVENTURE reports this operation carried out.

Hampdens successfull laid mines off Brest and Lorient last night. One mine was dropped in the mouth of the Ems.

Operations Against Vichy French

The policy of H.M.Govt. with regard to Vichy French ships is as follows. Warships are to be reported. If necessary, force is to be used to prevent them from proceeding to an enemy occupied or to any port in French Equatorial Africa now held by the Free French.

RICHELIEU and JEAN BART are not to be allowed to enter the Mediterranean or to proceed to German occupied ports.

Unescorted merchant vessels are to be sent in for examination, unless definitely established to be under Free French control or proceeding between Free French ports. Merchant vessels escorted by warships are not to be interfered with

/French S/M's.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French submarines met in company with a surface warship are to be informed that any attempt to dive will be treated as a hostile act. Submarines submerged or unescorted on the surface are to be treated as hostile outside neutral territorial waters with certain exceptions.

South Atlantic

C.S. 1. transferred his flag from DEVONSHIRE to NEPTUNE at sunset today.

Revised routeing instructions are issued today for merchant vessels from South Atlantic ports to the Northern Approaches of the U.K.

Mediterranean

Operation "White"

S.O.Force H. in RENOWN, with ARK ROYAL, ARGUS, SHEFFIELD, DESPATCH and 8 destroyers left Gibraltar 0415 today. After the operation, DESPATCH is to return to A & W.I. Station.

Mediterranean Convoys

A convoy of M.T. ships left Alexandria today for Piraeus, escorted by COVENTRY and 3 destroyers. One ship joined from Port Said.

A convoy left Port Said and Alexandria today for Piraeus, covered by CALCUTTA from Alexandria, ILEX from Port Said and WRYNECK from Suda Bay.

V.A.L.F. in ORION with AJAX are covering the above convoys.

C.S. 3 in GLOUCESTER with YORK and SYDNEY left Alexandria with troops for Piraeus today.

/Air Operations...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air Operations

Blenheims last night bombed Tummar Bardia, Tobruk and Bomba. Enemy aircraft made 2 attacks on Alexandria between 0000 and 0430 today. No damage is reported.

Greek M.V's

Greek Merchant ships may now be provided with degaussing and defensive equipment under the same conditions as those approved for ships of other Allied nations.

British Naval ratings are not to be drafted to any Greek ship except when embarked with machine guns for short coastal passages in the U.K.

East Indies

Two Wellingtons last night successfully attacked Asmara. A listening post in Diffrein Island was attacked today.

An unidentified aircraft was reported off Port Sudan last night, believed engaged in mine lying. The docks at Port Sudan were bombed today, but damage caused was negligible.

? Policy

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Dover Shelled

Enemy coastal batteries near Calais fired about 10 rounds this morning. Four shells fell near the R.M. Siege Battery. The remainder were presumably fired at an eastbound convoy in the Downs, but all fell astern and short.

ARSENEL Sunk BURZA ARROW SUPERMAN Damaged

BURZA was damaged this morning in collision with A/S trawler ARSENAL. The latter sank, and the explosion of her depth charges damaged ARROW which was standing by. Rescue tug SUPERMAN which stood by was also damaged in collision.

LL Corvettes for Mediterranean

PEONY, SALVIA, GLOXINIA and HYACINTH left Liverpool today to join the Meditn. Fleet.

Convoy W.S. 4. B.

AUSTRALIA reported defects yesterday. Her place as ocean escort of convoy W.S. 4 B will be taken by NORFOLK.

TALISMAN

TALISMAN sailed today for patrol. Before proceeding on patrol she is to carry out an operation which is referred to in V.A.S. 1011/10.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Heavy attacks were made last night on Hamburg, the docks being included among the objectives.

Channel ports and gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez were also attacked. No important results were observed.

Today, shipping was attacked in the docks at Den Helder.

Coastal Command

A Hudson today dropped 3- 250 lb bombs near a merchant vessel 68 miles West of Lister Light, causing a slight list.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

The following attacks occurred in the Thames Estuary and Harwich areas today:-

SS SHERBROOKE Damaged

0933 SS SHERBROOKE in F.S. 35 bombed 5 miles N.W. of Sunk L.V. 1241 bombed 8 miles S.E. of Orfordness. 1337 reported disabled 4 miles N. of Sunk L.V.

SS GASLIGHT Undamaged

1313 SS GASLIGHT unsuccessfully bombed near S.W. Swin Light.

VEGA

1404 VEGA (damaged by mine 11/11) in tow of ST MELIONS attacked off Harwich. No details known.

N.E. Swin L.V. Shelled

1407 N.E. Swin L.V. shelled by aircraft, several hits above waterline, no casualties.

Paddle M/S QUEEN EMPRESS. Undamaged

1447 QUEEN EMPRESS (Paddle minesweeper) bombed near Orfordness. No damage.

Butt of Lewis Lighthouse Station

Butt of Lewis Lighthouse Station and R.A.F. Station, Melbost were machine-gunned today; no casualties occurred.

Bombs were dropped in the Portsmouth and Gosport areas today, but no naval damage or casualties are reported.

Mining

The Swedish wireless broadcasts that the Finnish SS MINERVA has been sunk off the North Sea coast of Germany, it is believed as the result of striking a mine. (A.M., D.S. 485)

SS DAGENHAM Damaged

SS DAGENHAM in Convoy F.S. 35 was damaged this afternoon by an underwater explosion in the mouth of the Thames and was beached.

/A parachute.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

A parachute mine was seen to fall at 1850 today in the Medway. Enemy aircraft minelaying last night was suspected in the Thames Estuary.

Mines were exploded off Blyth (which was closed from 0315 to 1021) and off Swansea and Milford Haven. Explosions resembling mines were seen in the Thames Approaches.

Mediterranean

Troops for Greece

C.S.3. in GLOUCESTER with YORK, SYDNEY, BERWICK and GLASGOW with troops from Alexandria arrived at Piraeus today.

Air Operations

Oil tanks, railwaystation and aerodromes at Brindisi were bombed last night, starting several fires.

Blenheims last night bombed Sollum, Bardia Tobruk, Boma and Derna, causing much damage.

Three enemy aircraft attacked Alexandria last night. No damage was caused. Four heavy bombs or mines with delay action of about 72 hours, which were dropped during the raid on night of 13th., exploded in the harbour today. The damage was slight, but the floating dock was damaged and will be out of commission for a short time.

An R.A.F. convoy of 4 vessels arrived at Piraeus this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

CANBERRA no longer forms part of Force V (see 10/11)

COLOMBO, while reconnoitring obtained at least 2 hits on a small coaster of 1500 tons anchored off Mogadishu p.m. today. The shore batteries replied but COLOMBO was not hit.

Last night, Wellesleys bombed the main quay, destroyer base at Massawa and store houses at Zula.

America & West Indies

The German vessels RHEIN, ORINOCO, PHRYGIA and IDARWALD left Tampico last night. ORINOCO developed engine trouble before actually clearing port and returned, as did also RHEIN and IDARWALD. PHRYGIA is reported to have caught fire and was abandoned outside the port.

QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived at Trinidad this morning.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for H.X. 84 Survivors

BONAVENTURE and CHITRAL left patrol today for Scapa and Clyde respectively, continuous gales have been experienced and the chances of finding any survivors is now negligible. The destroyers LANCASTER, MANSFIELD, SHERWOOD and CHESTERFIELD which should have reached the position early on 15/11 have not been sighted. CHITRAL has been in company with BONAVENTURE since p.m./14 BONAVENTURE has much minor damage caused by the weather.

NAIAD

C.S. 15 in NAIAD last night carried out an operation which is referred to in signal C.S. 15 0225/17.

British Air Activity

Owing to the weather certain patrols were cancelled.

Bomber Command

A heavy attack was made on Hamburg last night though weather prevented observation of results in nearly every case. Naval targets attacked were Blohm and Voss Shipyards.

Channel Ports, Docks and Shipping were also attacked last night.

Coastal Command

No operations were completed today, owing to unsuitable weather.

MOST SECRET

17.11.1940
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Paddle M/S SOUTHSEA — H.M.Paddle M/S SOUTHSEA was attacked this morning by an enemy aircraft which she shot down. SOUTHSEA had no casualties.

Convoy E.N. — Convoy E.N. was attacked at 1150.

SS MARAUDER — MARAUDER was bombed in 55° 30' N., 7° 52' W at 1116, but no damage was caused.

WITCH VOLUNTEER — WITCH and VOLUNTEER were unsuccessfully bombed today about 6 miles west of St. Catherines. The Aircraft carrying out the attack were not seen.

Mining

Ports Affected:-
Humber closed at 0809.
Plymouth Sound opened at 0726.
Blyth Open. Restrictions removed 2249.

North Atlantic

There were indications this evening that ADMIRAL SCHEER was near the Azores. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and destroyer screen (returning from operation "White") were ordered to proceed to Gibraltar at maximum speed, and after fuelling, to proceed towards the Azores.
A full westerly gale was blowing, against which Force H was making only 9 knots.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operation "White"

(Air reinforcement of Malta by ARGUS)
V.A. Malta reports that only 4 Hurricanes and one Skua have arrived; one Skua and 8 Hurricanes force landed in the sea owing to lack of fuel. Search made and one pilot was picked up by a Sunderland; the remainder must be considered lost. Rome on 18/11 claimed shooting down a Blackburn Shark off Sicily, taking the crew prisoners; this may account for the Skuas.

NEWCASTLE left Gibraltar for Malta at 1230 today with R.A.F. personnel.

Air Operations

11 Wellingtons from Malta attacked Bari last night, causing large fires and explosions in the port and at a railway junction south west of Bari.

Last night Blenheims successfully attacked shipping in Benghazi and Tobruk harbours, and enemy aircraft at El Aden, Bardia and Sollum.

Blenheims today maintained standing fighter patrols over Athens.

Air raids on Alexandria last night and today caused casualties and some damage to private property and to ports and light-house gear. It is believed that 2 raiding aircraft dropped mines or torpedoes off the harbour this evening.

Greek Troop Convoy from Crete

A convoy of 9 Greek troop transports escorted by Greek destroyers left Suda Bay p.m. today for Salonika, COVENTRY providing AA escort.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

CATISTOCK

CATTISTOCK was damaged this evening in collision with drifter LIBDOCK in the Thames Estuary in low visibility. LIBDOCK was slightly damaged.

GO AHEAD
Sunk

H/M Drifter GO AHEAD is reported to have sunk in collision with WATCHMAN off Sheerness during a gale. (D.O.R.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

SWORDFISH Overdue

SWORDFISH was due to return from patrol on 16/11. She was ordered to report her position on the nights 15/16 and 16/17, but nothing has been heard of her since leaving Portsmouth a.m/7 to relieve USK off Brest; and she must be considered lost.

Northern Patrol

A.M.C's and O.B.V's are to be withdrawn from the Northern Patrol with the exception of a patrol in the Denmark Straits. The ships released from this duty will be used to strengthen the Western Patrol.

Slight damage by shelling was caused this afternoon at St. Margarets at Cliffe.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

The docks at Lorient and Den Helder were each attacked last night by one Whitley, causing small fires at each place. One Whitley bombed the south bank of the Ems Canal, near Gelsenkirchen.

Enemy Air Activity

ROYALLIEU CAPRICORNUS Bombed

M/S Trawlers ROYALLIEU and CAPRICORNUS were bombed in the Thames Estuary, but no damage or casualties resulted.

SS NESTLEA Sunk

SS NESTLEA (4274 tons) (straggler from Convoy S.L. 53) was bombed and machine-gunned and abandoned with engine room flooded this morning in the South Western Approaches.

OPALIA and S.N.A. 8. Damaged

Convoys F.S. 36 and F.N. 37 were attacked by dive bombers several times today between 1331 and 1530 in the Thames Approaches. British tanker OPALIA (6195 tons) was slightly damaged and S.N.A.8 (2569 tons) was disabled and subsequently towed to Southend by CAMPBELL.

/SS BIELA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS BIELA Bombed

SS BIELA (5298 tons) straggler from S.L.S.53 was bombed about 250 miles west of Ireland early this afternoon. No damage is reported.

SS. STELLA

(Swedish 1189 tons) was slightly damaged and put back to Harwich (D.S. 441)

SARPEDON

H.M.Trawler SARPEDON was machine-gunned at 1305 off Ramsgate and had 2 men wounded.

GARDENIA

GARDENIA was bombed but not hit this afternoon about 250 miles west of Ireland.

LOWESTOFT destroys Enemy Aircraft

LOWESTOFT escorting Convoy F.N. 37 at 1755 today destroyed by gunfire a Heinkel seaplane off Hartlepool. It is reported by ships in convoy that a second seaplane fired a torpedo which missed the convoy. At 2113 the convoy fired at a low flying raider returning from the Tyne and hit and damaged it.

Sunk L.V.

Sunk lightship was attacked early this afternoon and suffered some damage from cannon fire.

Ramsgate

Damage was caused at Ramsgate this afternoon, but there was no naval damage.

Folkestone

Widespread damage was caused at Folkestone in the early hours of this morning. No naval damage is reported.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft this afternoon is suspected off the East Coast, and during the early part of the night abnormally large numbers of aircraft were apparently minelaying off the East Coast from the Thames Estuary to the Tyne.

2= parachute mines are reported at Sunderland, which was closed at 2230.

Parachute mines were seen to drop off the Tyne late today and the Tyne was closed.

Acoustic mining is suspected at the entrance to the Tees. The ports of Tees and Hartlepool are open, except to diesel engined ships.

Several explosions were heard off Harwich today. Two mines were found.

Fowey is closed. Mines are suspected in St. Austell Bay, positions uncertain.

ABILITY

Motor barge ABILITY was mined and sunk at 1544 today off Clacton.

Operation S.N. 3.

1st M.L.S. escorted by 3 destroyers laid mines to the north-west of Scotland p.m. today.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Commencing today, the following will be included in the NAVICERT area:-
Madagascar, Reunion, French West Africa, Liberia, Portuguese Guinea and Syria.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

SS CONGONIAN (5065 tons) was torpedoed by a U-Boat probably German, in position 8° 21' N., 16° 12' W., at 1800 today.

KENT arrived at Simonstown today with damage from heavy weather.

Mediterranean

Blenheims last night attacked Benghazi, Tobruk, Bardia and Sollum. (Results not yet received)

East Indies

Masters of ships, especially neutral, have represented that it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish whether or not they are being stopped or boarded by a genuine British ship. C. in C., E.I. reports that some form of signal whereby an H.M. Ship can establish her friendly character, seems clearly necessary.

COLOMBO, patrolling off Kismayu was attacked from the air at 1412 G.M.T. today but was not hit.

Operation "Rope"

DORSETSHIRE today bombarded Dante (Italian Somaliland) She reported all targets appeared badly damaged except two circular tanks. Her Walrus was hit but is serviceable with reduced performance. DORSETSHIRE was not damaged. There was no shipping in the harbour.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.11.40.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Redistribution of the Fleet.

The presence of ADMIRAL SCHEER in the Trade routes, the probable existence of five enemy surface raiders operating in the South Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Ocean, and the increasing troop reinforcements to the Middle East via the Cape, necessitate a redistribution of the Fleet and the formation of raider hunting groups.

Home Commands.

Operation P.V.	Capt: D.21 in FERNIE proceeded this evening with GARTH, EGLINGTON and QUORN to attack enemy invasion practices being carried out tonight at Ostend.
R.M.Siege Battery shelled.	The enemy coastal batteries today fired 10 rounds which fell harmlessly near the R.M. Siege Battery and in the sea off St. Margarets Bay.
Denmark Straits.	A patrol of Denmark Straits is to be instituted as soon as possible.
Dover Shelled.	Dover was shelled by enemy Coastal Batteries today, but no damage was caused

MOST SECRET.
22.11.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command. Blenheims today attacked docks and shipping at Willemscord and Gravelines, barges near Kallantscog S.S.W. of Den Helder, and a convoy off Vlieland. Results were not seen.
Owing to adverse weather, no operations were carried out last night.

Coastal Command. Routine patrols were flown and special reconnaissances of Ostend.

Stavanger Raid. 4 aircraft of Coastal Command carried out an attack on Sola, Stavanger this morning.

Enemy Air Activity.

GUILLEMOT attacked. GUILLEMOT was attacked but not hit this morning off Harwich.

Portsmouth. Slight damage was caused at Frater Mine Depot today.

Enemy aircraft were sighted over the Hebrides and Faroes today.

Faroes. One or two enemy seaplanes flew over the entrance to Skaale Fiord, Thorshavn and Nolic Fiord. Two torpedoes were fired at shipping in Thorshavn Hay and both exploded on the beach. Minor damage was caused ashore, but no casualties.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.11.40.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Tug HERCULES Sunk.

Tug HERCULES was mined and sunk off Tynemouth today, approximately one cable South of the swept Channel.

S.S. PIKEPOOL.

(3683 tons) Believed mined off the Smalls Lt. early this morning. (D.O.R.)

M.L.127. Blown Up.

M.L.127 was blown up today off Clacton. There is some doubt concerning the cause of the explosion.

ETHEL TAYLOR Sunk.

A/P Trawler ETHEL TAYLOR was mined and sunk today in the Tyne. The vessel was not diesel engined.

Mines were found off Hartlepool, Tyne, approaches to Moray Firth.

Ports Affected.

Tyne closed at 2355.
Plymouth. Opened at 1330 by day.
River Forth. Closed between Grangemouth and Crombie 1547.
Tees. Opened to diesel engined ships 1911.
Milford Haven. Closed 2007.
Humber. Closed 2155.
Hartlepool, Fowey, Penzance, Newlyn, Kyles of Bute, de-gaussing range at Belfast are closed. Restrictions on diesel engined ships at Sunderland.

Shipping.

A submarine is occassionally to accompany homeward bound Halifax convoys, and PORPOISE has been selected for this duty.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.11.40.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

CHARLES PLUMIER, French M.V. was intercepted about 110 miles E. of Gibraltar today and sent into Gibraltar under armed guard. (D.O.R.)

Mediterranean.

General Smuts has agreed to release four whale-catchers fully equipped, SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN FLOE, SOUTHERN ISLE and SOUTHERN SEA, for anti-submarine work in the Mediterranean.

BERWICK is to be released from Mediterranean for service in a raider hunting group, and will be passed through westward under cover of Operation COLLAR.

12 enemy aircraft flew over Grand Harbour, Malta, this morning on reconnaissance, and 1 was shot down into the sea.

Blenheims last night attacked Derna, Bomba and Bardia.

Fighter patrols by Blenheims ~~are~~ were provided over Athens today.

AUSTRALIA.

PERTH left Fremantle at 0037Z today to assist in the search for the raider reported by PORT BRISBANE and MAIMOA (see 20/11, 21/11) The sailing of Convoy U.S.7 is delayed until the return of CANBERRA and PERTH.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

At 1555 today a Coastal Command aircraft sighted 8 to 12 merchant ships 30 miles N.E. of Ushant, proceeding up Channel. The aircraft was chased off by enemy fighters and could not make a detailed report. Intelligence pointed also to the possibility that 3 enemy destroyers would be operating tonight between the Isle of Wight and 60° W possibly proceeding from Brest to Cherbourg.

Destroyer Operation

Captain D. 5 with 5 destroyers of 5th D.F. left Plymouth at 2050 today to intercept and destroy the enemy convoy which was thought to be probably proceeding from Brest to Cherbourg. Three destroyers from Portsmouth Command under DUNEDIN carried out a sweep to the westward to the limit of the Portsmouth Command to cooperate with Captain D.5. The necessary orders were issued to s/M's on patrol to keep clear of the area; and local patrols of small vessels were withdrawn from the area and merchant vessels warned.

Air reconnaissance was arranged, but at 2127 the aircraft had to return to base on account of the weather.

U-Boat Attacks

U-Boats were active in the North West Approaches last night and today. Eight ships were torpedoed in, and stragglers from, Convoys S.C. 11 and O.B. 244.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

A heavy attack was carried out last night on the aerodrome at Bordeaux, and good weather aided a most successful operation Hangers, barrack buildings and aircraft on the ground were set on fire and destroyed.

Aerodromes at Schipol and Antwerp (Deurne) and the seaplane base at St. Nazaire were also attacked.

The Naval bases at Lorient and Bordeaux, and Channel ports were also attacked; in most cases fires and explosions resulted.

Coastal Command

A Blenheim on routine patrol today bombed a W/T station on Vikero Island (Norwegian Coast) Three Blenheims obtained near misses on 2 merchant vessels 30 miles south of Horns Reef.

Six Blenheims successfully attacked the power station and U-Boats at Brest between 1730 and 1830 today. Blenheims also attacked Lorient at 1800 today.

F.A.A.

Four Swordfish bombed the dock area of Boulogne at 1920 today.

Enemy Air Activity

The Portsmouth-Southampton area was attacked this evening up to 2230 hours.

Mining

Operation S.N. 11.

Four ships of 1st M.L.S., with BATH and ST ALBANS (ST. MARYS was delayed) left Port Z.A. today to lay mines in Denmark Strait. AURORA is to provide ocean escort, and 1st B.C.S. in HOOD will provide cover.

Operation Z.M.E. 3.

ADVENTURE completed this minelaying operation at 0030/23 in the south St. Georges Channel.

/Aircraff.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Aircraft Minelaying — Two mines were laid off Lorient last night.

NEW COMET Damaged — LL Trawler NEW COMET was damaged by near mine explosion in the Tyne this afternoon.

K.3. Blown up. — Mine observation patrol craft K.3. was blown up by a mine off Inchkeith Light this afternoon.

SAILOR KING Mined — H.M.D. SAILOR KING was mined at 1555/23 in the Colne off Brightlingsea.

GOOD DESIGN Blown up — M.F.V. GOOD DESIGN was blown up p.m. to-day in the Firth of Forth.

Ports Affected

Milford Haven. Port is open; local restrictions. Two mines detonated.

Plymouth. Restrictions on Diesel engines. One mine detonated.

Thames Estuary. Mines reported dropped by aircraft last night. One exploded on surface.

Falmouth. Close 2104.

Faroes. Mines possibly dropped in Nolso Fiord.

Operations Against Vichy French

British and Allied ships may now call at all ports in French Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa, including Gabon.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

French Ships

It is reported that all French ships have orders to Scuttle themselves if in danger of falling into our hands, and all escorts have orders to fire if we interfere with their convoys.

The French Schooner GEMEAUX (604 tons) was intercepted this evening 130 miles N.E. of Axores and is being sent to Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

Raider

A disguised merchant raider was reported this afternoon by the GLENBERG off the West Coast of Africa.

Mediterrancan

Steps have been taken to ensure the safety and immunity from legal procedure of French ships requisitioned and now under the British Flag which call at Egyptian ports.

A French troop convoy which left Beirut today is suspected of carrying political prisoners, contrary to guarantee, and possibly cargo and military equipment. If such is the case, the prisoners are to be removed and the ships sent in.

Wellingtons last night heavily attacked Bari with success. Bombs were also dropped on the entrance to the inner harbour at Taranto.

There was an air raid on Malta this morning and another this afternoon. Damage was very slight.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

C. in C., E.I. has asked that A.M.C.'s on his station may be fitted with aircraft on account of the prevalence of raiders on this station.

America & West Indies

Until further orders French ships trading between U.S.A. and French West Indies will not be sent in but will be allowed to proceed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Admty. Message 1917/24 states the policy to be arrived at in order to counter the activities of the ADMIRAL SCHEER and 5 enemy armed merchant raiders which are operating in the South Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans; the message gives the composition of the forces to be employed.

Home Commands

Raider Reported

At 1328 today a raider signal was received from SS TREHATA, about 400 miles west of Ireland. It is possible that she had sighted another ship from Convoy O.B. 245, in which TREHATA had been, the convoy having dispersed this morning.

E-Boat Attacks on Shipping

E-Boats were reported off Aldeburgh and Yarmouth Approaches this evening. Enemy E-Boats are attacking merchant ships without warning. The Admiralty today issued instructions for the security of convoys at night.

Destroyer Operation

5th D.F. sighted nothing last night. JACKAL returned to Plymouth with defects. At 2331 orders were sent to Captain D. 5. who had returned to Plymouth, to proceed with 4 destroyers to patrol between 5° W and 4° W to cover shipping between Dartmouth and Falmouth and to intercept any enemy craft returning towards Brest; it was thought that 3 enemy destroyers might be operating tonight off the South Coast between 6° W and 1° 30' W., Air reconnaissance was not available.

At 2206 an E-Boat was reported off Berry Head (Dartmouth area)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Last night, the docks at Ostend and Rotterdam, A/A batteries near Wilhelmshaven and Trischen, and the Estuary of the Elbe were attacked.

Coastal Command

Swordfish last night bombed the docks at Boulogne. The harbour at Hook of Holland was attacked by Hudsons today.

Bad weather greatly reduced the effectiveness of the routine patrols today.

Enemy Air Activity

WOLSEY was unsuccessfully bombed today.

Attacks, some of which caused very minor damage, took place today on Sheerness R.N. A.A. Range, Whale Island, Here Oil Fuel Tanks (Portland), Woolston (last night) Enemy aircraft today carried out an unusually comprehensive reconnaissance in the areas Forth-Kinnaird Head, Orkneys and Pentland Firth. The Admiralty this evening enquired of the C. in C., Home Fleet regarding the security of the Fleet against air attack similar to that carried out by the F.A.A. at Taranto.

LEONOLA (Q.V.1) is reported to have been machine gunned in the Channel today, but had no casualties.

Mining

Extensive minelaying by enemy aircraft took place last night between the Tyne and the Thames Estuary (particularly during the early hours of the night) and possibly off the South Coast. It is estimated that 50 minelaying aircraft were engaged.

Several mines were exploded in the Thames Estuary today.

/The following..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

The Following vessels were mined in the Thames Estuary today:-

SS ALICE MARIE — SS ALICE MARIE Abandoned, partly under water, in Convoy F.S. 43.

H.M.T.AMETHYST — H.MT. AMETHYST. Sunk.

SS CAMROUX IV — SS CAMROUX IV. Damaged. In convoy F.N. 42

SS RYAL — SS RYAL. Sunk. In convoy F.N. 42

M.L. 171 — M.L. 171. Slightly damaged.

GAEL Sunk — H.M. Yacht GAEL was mined and sunk this morning off Spurn Point. The Humber was opened at 0732.

SS THOMAS M — SS THOMAS M (Coasting vessel, under Govt. Charter, in Convoy F.N. 42) was mined and sunk this afternoon off Yarmouth.

SS BEHAR PRESERVER — SS BEHAR (6100 tons) and Salvage tug PRESERVER were mined off Milford Haven. Two mines were destroyed in the Haven and one exploded ½ mile inland from St. Ann's Head. Milford Haven was closed at 0502 and opened, subject to local restrictions at 1331.

SS ALMA DAWSON — SS ALMA DAWSON in convoy S.C. 11 was mined (at first reported torpedoed) 18 miles east of Inistrahull this morning and believed sunk.

Blyth was closed 1231. Falmouth was opened at 1515 and Tyne at 1304 with restrictions on Diesel engined ships.

British A/C Minelaying — Hampden aircraft successfully laid mines in the Elbe Estuary last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air Raid on Alexandria

There was an air raid on Alexandria early this morning by a plane obviously attacking the harbour but driven off by the barrage. Slight damage was done in the city. C. in C., Meditn. reports that the A.R.P. services of the city are insufficiently developed.

Air Raid on Durazzo

9 Blenheims attacked Durazzo at 1400 today. Direct hits were obtained on a 10,000 ton ship and smaller ships the remainder of the bombs falling in the dock area or alongside ships at the quay. One aircraft is missing. Apollonia, Berna, Bardia and Tobruk were attacked at dawn today.

Air Raid on Malta

6 C.R. 42's carried out a dusk attack on Luqa aerodrome today.
One Wellington on the ground was burnt out.

It is reported that all German ships at Trieste are preparing to transport German troops to Albania. There are believed to be 18 German ships, of 71,785 tons at Trieste.

East Indies

Asaab was bombed several times today, 4 bombs being dropped very near a ship in harbour which usually fires at aircraft. A very large fire was started, visible 50 miles.

America & West Indies

SS PORT HOBART Shelled by raider

The British SS PORT HOBART reported she was being shelled at 1530Z today (16.42 BST) about 500 miles N.E. of Puerto Rico. DIOMEDE was ordered to endeavour to locate the raider.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

O.22 Overdue

O.22 is overdue at Dundee today. Nothing has been heard of her since she left Dundee 5/11 for patrol off Skudesnes. A German broadcast at 0729/12 claimed to have sunk aBritish submarine in the Skagerrak, but there is no evidence to connect this with O.22.

East Coast Convoys

It is becoming increasingly difficult to pursuade crews of merchant ships to sail in East Coast convoys owing to repeated air attacks. Maintenance of these convoys is of great importance, particularly for coal supply to London and South Coast. The Air Ministry have been asked to provide a fighter patrol over the convoys during the passage between Sunk and Nore light vessels, which is made in daylight and is the most vulnerable part of the journey.

Protection Against low-flying attack

Kites are to be fitted to ships sailing independently this being considered the most effective measure to defeat low flying air-attacks. Additional close range weapons will be provided to fast liners.

FORMIDABLE

New Aircraft Carrier, left Belfast this morning and after exercises proceeded to the Clyde.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command.

Lorient and Channel ports were attacked last night. Flushing was attacked today, and bombs were burst amongst barges. A convoy of 5 merchant vessels was attacked off Walcheren; result was not seen.

Coastal Command

Vlaardingen and a merchant vessel 9 miles north of Hook of Holland (near miss) ~~was~~ were attacked last night. Small vessels at the entrance to the canal at Ijmuiden were attacked today.

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.S. odd. Convoy F.S. was attacked this morning off Harwich. VANITY reported one a/c was damaged by gun fire.

Convoy F.N.39. Convoy F.N.39 was attacked this morning in the Thames Estuary. No damage is reported.

Damage to essential services was caused at Southampton last night.

Mining.

S.S. DAKOTIAN
S.S. PELEUS mined. S.S. DAKOTIAN and PELEUS were mined at Milford Haven today, whilst at anchor. The former sank.
H.M. Drifter XMAS ROSE was mined and sunk this afternoon in the Thames Approaches.

Enemy aircraft were reported, probably engaged in minelaying, in the Thames Estuary last night and this morning.
Various explosions were noted.
4 aircraft suspected minelaying, were observed off Harwich this morning.
Other minelaying aircraft were operating last night, but areas were unidentified.

Ports closed. Tees, Hartlepool, Plymouth, Fowey, Penzance, Newlyn, Kyles of Bute, De-gaussing range at Belfast. Diesel ships may only enter Tyne and Sunderland when in tow.
Milford Haven was opened at 1154.

North Atlantic.

S.S. MORETON BAY reported today a disguised merchant vessel raider in 30° 1' N. 25° 10' W. This may be VAN DER ZAAN.

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Greek Ships. Merchant Vessels trading in the interests of Greece or sailing to Egypt, Sudan or Suez Canal Ports and with the authority of C.in C. Mediterranean or C.in C. E.I., or sailing to the U.S.A. with ore or munition supplies are to be treated as though they possessed ship warrants.

Yugoslavia. The possibility of a certain operation taking place is referred to in N.A. Belgrade 1845/21.

Malta bombed. A few bombs were dropped on Malta last night and today without causing any damage. The objecti~~on~~, according to Rome news appears to have been Takali aerodrome.

R.A.F. last night bombed Sollum, Bardia, Tobruk, Benina, Berka and Benghasi.
At Benina aerodrome the control building was hit and several aircraft on the ground were damaged.

APHIS, with air co-operation, bombarded Maktila Camp for an hour last night, starting 3 large fires.

East Indies.

R.A.F. last night bombed Gura, Asmara and Massawa.
Two S.79's bombed Port Sudan today.
No damage or casualties resulted.

Australia.

Raider reported by PORT BRISBANE At 1610Z today S.S. PORT BRISBANE reported a suspicious vessel firing at her in position 29° 22' S. 95° 36' E. The position is 300 miles N.W. of that of the MAIMOA which reported a raider at 0830Z yesterday.

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy O.B. 244 was attacked this evening in N.W. Approaches and the Greek VICTORIA and British DAYDAWN torpedoed, the latter sinking. All Survivors from both ships were picked up by CASTLETON.

CREE, ex S.L.53 slow, was also torpedoed and sank.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer Engagement

3 Enemy destroyers were sighted off Belle Isle by aircraft at 1115 today. Captain (D) 5 in JAVELIN, with JACKAL, JUPITER, JERSEY and KASHMIR, were ordered to patrol during the night between Start Point and Lands End. They encountered 3 enemy destroyers early this morning 20 miles S.E. of the Lizard. One of the enemy is believed to have been damaged. JAVELIN had her bow and stern blown off by torpedo but remained afloat on an even keel and was towed to Plymouth. The other destroyers swept towards Brest until 0800 but did not regain touch .

One enemy destroyer is believed to have been damaged; Aircraft reconnaissance of Brest saw 3 destroyers at 1230 today, one of which was possibly damaged.

Tug AID and barge CBX 110 were sunk by the enemy destroyers, pilot vessel No 4 and tug ABEILLE No 14 were towed in by trawlers.

GERMANIA

CIRCASSIA, CALIFORNIA and WORCESTERSHIRE of the Northern Patrol, are patrolling areas S.3, S.2, and S. 1 respectively to intercept the German tanker GERMANIA, which arrived at Las Palmas yesterday from Ponta Delgada.

Atlantic Convoys Escorts

Until more "R" class battleships can be made available extra A.M.C's must be allocated as ocean escorts on the North Atlantic route. FORFAR sails tomorrow to meet S.C. 14. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to sail on 1/12 for Halifax.

British Air Operations

A small force of heavy bombers last night attacked Naval Targets at Stettin. Channel ports were also attacked.

Owing to adverse weather conditions no operations were undertaken today by Bomber Command.

A convoy of 12 merchant vessels with 5 probable flak ships was attacked off Terschelling this afternoon, one large ship being hit (D.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.22.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Convoy O.B. 250 was attacked this morning in the N.W. Approaches. No damage occurred This convoy had an escort of destroyers and a Sunderland.

Convoy F.N. 46 was bombed in the Thames Estuary this morning. No damage is reported. SS BRITISH OFFICER while proceeding to join the convoy was machine gunned by an aircraft showing British markings.

KASHMIR was bombed this afternoon near the Lizard. No damage is reported.

As a result of the attack on Turnchapel Oil Fuel depot p.m/27- a.m/28 all tanks containing fuel are now involved.

Slight damage from blast was caused to Admiralty establishments at Liverpool last night.

Mining

CALVERTON
D.W.FITZGERALD
RECONO
Mined off Humber

LL trawler CALVERTON was mined and sunk early this morning and M/S Vessel D.W. FITZGERALD this afternoon off Spurn Point. M/S trawler RECONO was damaged by mine this afternoon off the Humber. Earlier in the afternoon a mine was exploded off Spurn Point, presumably by D.W.FITZGERALD with S.A. gear, who was about 2 miles away at the time.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected early this morning in the Plymouth area and possibly in the Bristol Channel. Between 1800 and midnight, minelaying is suspected in the Thames Estuary.

Minelaying in Baie de la Seine

ICARUS and 3 destroyers carried out minelaying operations in the Baie de la Seine last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

A submarine patrol by three S/M's relieved in the Mediterranean by "U" class vessels is to be established off the Azores.

There are reports that German ships at Vigo and Ponta Delgada are about to sail.

South Atlantic

Operation "Stripe"

Disembarkation of aircraft from FURIOUS, was completed today. 34 Hurricanes and 3 Fulmars were flown off. 1 of the former crashed in the sea, but the pilot was saved.

Brazzaville reports the presence of a submarine off Libreville and asks for aircraft for reconnaissance.

Mediterranean

It is reported that German Troops embarked at Trieste on 27/11 and 28/11 in 5 German ships which are ready to sail for Albania at once.

Wellingtons last night delivered a heavy attack on the port and railway station at Brindisi.

East Indies

Operation "Canned"

LEANDER today bombarded the fish factory at Mogadishu, her Walrus having first bombed the D/F station, apparently successfully.

Raider Reported

At 1919 G.M.T. SS LUXMI in position 30° 31' S., 55° 0' E (Southern Indian Ocean) intercepted a merchant ship raider signal apparently very close. No position was given in the raider signal. CARTHAGE is proceeding to intercept.

/Assab.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies-Contd.

Assab Bombed

Blenheims bombed Assab today.

America & West Indies

IDARWALD
RHEIN

The German SS IDARWALD and RHEIN left Tampico this morning to the Southward.

Convoy assembly at Sydney C.B. will cease after the sailing of S.H.X. 94 and S.C. 15. Halifax will be used instead.

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Raider Situation.

The Admiralty estimate that 5 of these vessels and possibly SCHEER are operating in various parts of the world.

Raider 1.
(a) Description - Pocket Battleship SCHEER.
(b) Last heard of - 5/11 in 52° 43' N. 32° 15' W. attacking HX 84.
(c) Supply ship. Suspected one vessel of ALTMARK Class.
(d) Forecasted area of operations. May have returned to Germany.

Raider 2.
(a) Armed merchant raider.
(b) 20/11. 600 miles S.E. of Bermuda attacking S.S. PORT HOBART.
(c) German S.S. HELGOLAND left Puerto Colombia, 28/10.
(d) East Atlantic South of Azores.

Raider 3.
(a) Armed Merchant Raider.
(b) 8/10. Sinking S.S. NATIA near St. Paul Rocks.
(c) German S.S. RIO GRANDE left Rio Grande do Sol 30/10.
(d) Pernambuco Area.

Raider 4.
(a) Armed Merchant Raider.
(b) 10/11 sinking S.S. OLE JACOB and 11/11 sinking S.S.AUTOMEDON 250 miles west of Achin Head, Sumatra.
(c) None known but at least one suspected.
(d) Colombo - Straits of Malacca Trade Route.

Raider 5.
(a) Armed Merchant Raider.
(b) 20/11. Attacking S.S. NAIMOA and 21/11. Attacking S.S. PORT BRISBANE 800 miles West of Perth - Western Australia.
(c) None known but at least one suspected.
(d) Cape of Good Hope. South Australian Trade Route.

/ Accurate .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Raider Situation-Contd.

Raider 6.
(a) Armed merchant raider
(b) 4/11 and 7/11 laying mines in Bass Straits and possibly sinking SS. RANGITANE 26th November 300 miles east of East Cape North Island, New Zealand.
(c) None known but one suspected.
(d) Borneo area and Indian Ocean

Accurate description of raiders difficult owing to vagueness of reports and frequent use of disguises such as dummy bulwarks, houses, boats telecopic topmasts and funnels. Two types appear to be operating in Atlantic, but this may be due to effective disguise.

Home Commands

The Admiralty have approved the discontinuation of sloops as ocean escorts to S.C. Convoys.

JERSEY sailed for Gibraltar at 1745 today.

Shelling by Coastal Batteries — Coastal Batteries at Wissent and Gris Nez fired 13 rounds early this morning, all of which are thought to have fallen in the sea. Convoy C.E. 18 was near at the time but was undamaged. The enemy coastal batteries have now fired 1511 rounds.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — Shipyards at Bremen were attacked last night. Attacks were also made on Boulogne and Le Havre.

Coastal Command — Blenheims last night attacked the submarine base and docks at Lorient.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

30.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

CILICIA attacked.

CILICIA, escorting Convoy S.L.55 was attacked by an enemy aircraft this morning 200 miles west of Ireland and had 2 casualties, though no damage to the ship is reported.

Convoy C.E.18.

Convoy C.E.18 was attacked this morning off Ramsgate. No damage is reported.

Attack on Southampton.

A heavy attack on Southampton commenced at 1845 today. (See 1/12).

Mining.

CHESTNUT sunk.

M/S Trawler CHESTNUT was mined this morning off Margate and sank later.

Minelaying by mining aircraft was carried out tonight off the South-West coast and probably off the East coast.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary and off Swansea.

Plymouth will be open daily from 0930 to 1100 and from 1600 to 1730.

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements for M.E. arrived at Alexandria today in S.S. NEW ZEALAND STAR, escorted by C.S.18 in MANCHESTER with SOUTHAMPTON, COVENTRY and 2 destroyers.

C.in C. Mediterranean today stated (C.in C. Med. 1237/30) the policy which he considers should be adhered to with regard to the operation of aircraft at Malta. The former telegram contains some remarks concerning aircraft reconnaissance and operation "Collar".

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

German ships. ELSA ESSBERGER and WINNETOU disappeared from Kobe today and nothing is known of their whereabouts.

America and West Indies.

Sailing of German ships. PORTLAND left Coquimbo at 2130 local time today. Other ships are expected to sail from Mexico and South American ports shortly.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Sweep with West Scheldt

M.T.B's 31 and 30 carried out a sweep with the West Scheldt last night. M.T.B. 22 returned to Harwich when her hydraulic steering failed near Thornton Ridge. M.T.B. 30 was disabled early by shell fire, and returned to Harwich under her own power. M.T.B.31 engaged several enemy ships and dropped depth charges very close to a merchant ship of about 3000 tons. At 0052 today German SANTOS, 5943 tons, reported that she had been torpedoed by a British M.T.B. off the mouth of the Scheldt.

Destroyer Engagement with E-Boats

Capt. D. 21 in CAMPBELL with VANESSA on patrol last night had a brief inconclusive engagement in the North Sea with 2 enemy E-Boats which they chased.

Demand for Torpedo carrying aircraft

C. in C., W.A. asks for a striking force of F.A.A. torpedo carrying aircraft to be placed at his disposal for use against enemy destroyers in operations such as the latter have carried out in the Western Channel during the past week.

FAME

FAME was refloated today and was towed to Sunderland.

HASTINGS

HASTINGS was damaged in collision today.

SAGUENAY Torpedoed

SAGUENAY with convoy H.G. 47 was torpedoed early this morning in the N.W. Approaches and is proceeding to St. Helens.

British Air Activity

No operations were carried out by Bomber Command today, on account of the weather.

Attacks

Blenheims of Coastal Command dropped bombs on the submarine base and naval docks at Lorient. Beauforts successfully bombed Brest; the power station, a jetty and dry docks were hit.

/A Beaufort.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Attacks-Contd.

A Beaufort on patrol off the Frisian Is. unsuccessfully attacked a 7000 ton merchant vessel.

Merchant vessels in Kristiansand Harbour were also attacked; hits were obtained on sheds on the quayside.

A gas works at Esbierg was bombed and direct hits obtained, resulting in explosion and fire.

Patrols

New standard patrols were flown this morning, covering the coast of Norway southwards from Stadlandet and continuing to Horn's Reef. An offensive patrol was flown in the Bight and along the Frisian Islands to Terschelling.

Owing to the weather, patrols and convoy escorts in the N.W. Approaches were recalled during the forenoon.

Hatston

The two squadrons of Swordfish at Hatston are to be disbanded. C. in C., H.F. reports that after this is done, there will remain no naval aircraft except about 4 Walrus to seek out and destroy U-Boats near the main Fleet Base or on passage to and from the Atlantic. The Air striking force to attack enemy warships and shipping is reduced to 6 Skuas. He is informed that the operational strength of the Torpedo Bomber Squadron at Wick today was 3 Beauforts. In view of this and the probability that the enemy will endeavour to pass raiders through the Norwegian Fiords during the coming weeks, C. in C., H.F., asks that the 2 Squadrons not now required for FURIOUS may be sent to Hatston.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS CETVRTI (Yugoslav) was bombed about 80 miles S.W. of Ireland today and is reported to have sunk later.

SS ASTRAL (U.S.A. 7542 tons) was damaged today by a near miss.

Attack on Southampton

Southampton was heavily attacked, commencing at 1845 yesterday. Considerable damage was caused in the city where there was a shortage of water for fire fighting. Minor damage was done in the docks area. H.M.S. HOBURG was slightly damaged and two Dutch schuyts and a coal barge were damaged, as also were Harland and Wolff's extension yards.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was suspected between 1800 and midnight in the Bristol Channel.

MAORI exploded a mine in the Firth of Forth but was not damaged. A mine was detonated off Milford Haven.

Tyne

Two ships were mined off the Tyne today SS OSLO FIORD and tanker BRITISH OFFICER both were beached. The Tyne was closed at 1325.

Plymouth is closed. Liverpool was closed at 1420 and reopened with restrictions at 1630.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Either yesterday or today CARNARVON CASTLE intercepted the Brazilian SS ITAPE near Rio de Janeiro and removed 22 German Merchant Navy Officers and men.

Mediterranean

A message received today from R.A. (A) Med. says that during the 12 weeks to 25/11 ILLUSTRIOUS fighters have shot down for certain 21 enemy aircraft in the Mediterranean.

America & West Indies

Search for IDARWALD and RHEIN

VAN KINSBERGEN (Netherlands Gunnery Training Ship) left Nassau and CARADOC left Bermuda today, to patrol Florida Straits. DIOMEDE left Trinidad after fuelling, for Kingston, Jamaica. PRINCE ROBERT left yesterday for patrol off Callao. Aircraft left Curacao yesterday morning for Jamaica to search.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

CALIFORNIA intercepted the German SS KLAUS SCHOKE this evening about 250 miles East of the Azores. The crew scuttled the ship, but it is possible an attempt may be made to tow her to the Azores or Gibraltar.

Mediterranean

Air Attack on Valona

9 Blenheims successfully attacked Valona p.m. today. Damage was done at the port, a small ship alongside the jetty was hit and a near miss was obtained on another.

Dodecanese

C. in C., Meditn. telegraphs that the questions raised in his 1241/17/11 are becoming increasingly urgent and he asks for the Admiralty policy regarding the future of these islands.

Operation "Collar"

Matters of interest concerning this operation are contained in C. in C., Med. 1657/2.

Brindisi

H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. reports that there is no obvious result of damage from the attack on Brindisi by Wellingtons on 29/11.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Submarine Attack on H.X. 90. FORFAR Sunk

About 15 ships were torpedoed in the North West Approaches last night and this morning, of which 14 are known to have been in Convoy H.X. 90. A.M.C. FORFAR which was one the ships torpedoed sank later.

Aircraft reported a large number of ships off Ostend at 1700 today, Three M.T.B's were sent to investigate.

British Air Activity

Special patrols of the Norwegian Coast were flown today, with a view to naval action being taken against shipping. Aircraft reported a convoy of 13 merchant ships just south of Stadlandet at 1100, with a flak ship.

A special patrol was flown East of Iceland today.

A Sunderland patrol was maintained today in the area in which Convoy H.X. 90 was attacked last night.

A small force of heavy bombers last night successfully attacked the Naval Shipbuilding Yards at Wilhelmshaven. Some barges lying off the Dutch Coast were attacked today, but weather conditions hampered other operations.

A Blenheim of Coastal Command, on routine patrol today attacked and hit a 2000 ton merchant vessel off the coast of Norway.

Two destroyers were attacked off Egersund by torpedo which missed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Measures to counter night air attacks such as that made on Southampton 30/11-1/12 are detailed in Admty 1307/2.

Attack on Southampton

Southampton was attacked again last night. One small H.M.ship was sunk and five damaged (4 only slightly) and 2 other ships had casualties. One Dutch merchant ship was slightly damaged and a small Dutch Schoyt was sunk. Damage was done in the dock area but reports from repair yards indicate that work will not be seriously delayed. Thornycroft's yard was damaged and minor damage was caused to a T.B.D. on stocks.

Bristol was attacked today from 1800 onwards No reports of damage have been received.

SS KILGARRAN CASTLE was attacked early this afternoon 25 miles S.W. of Kinsale Head. No damage is reported.

Mining

Operation G.Q.

ADVENTURE, covered by 3 destroyers last night laid mines about 180 miles west of Ushant.

Enemy Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active in the Bristol Channel last night.

SS JOLLY GIRLS (483 tons) under Govt. Charter, a straggler from Convoy F.N. 47 was mined and sunk off the Tyne today.

The Tyne was reopened at 1422 today and closed again at 1756.

A mine was detonated this morning at Plymouth, slightly damaging a sweeper.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

RODNEY — RODNEY left Scapa this morning escorted by 4 destroyers to cover homecoming Halifax convoys. A/S air escort was provided.

Convoy C.W.19 Shelled — Enemy Coastal batteries fired 101 rounds at Convoy C.W. 19 this evening. Five fell in Dover harbour, causing one slight naval casualty.

Concentration of Enemy M/V's off Wilhelmshaven. — Aircraft on reconnaissance sighted at least 50 merchant vessels off Wilhelmshaven apparently sailing. These ships may be sheltering and in view of the unfavourable weather forecast it is considered very improbable that these ships constitute an immediate threat, but air reconnaissance has been ordered for dawn tomorrow. "Deluge" signal in all areas at 1130 and 2330 today was 3.

U-Boat hunt — KASHMIR, JUPITER, KIPLING and PUNJABI returned to Plymouth at 1345 today.

Ships in Distress — Four or five ships are in distress due to heavy weather.

Shortage of M.A/S.B's at Plymouth — Only 3 of the 8 vessels of the 3rd M.A./S.B Flotilla at Plymouth remain effective. This is not sufficient to deal with the E-Boat attacks on merchant vessels, and C. in C., W.A. asks that a further flotilla may be sent to him if possible.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — Blenheims last night attacked docks and shipping at Calais, Ostend and Antwerp.

Coastal Command — A Sunderland left Sullom Voe at 0300 today to reconnoitre Narvik but returned on account of bad weather. Aircraft in the N.W. Approaches were recalled during the afternoon.

Five aircraft made individual attacks today on shipping off the German coast and off th Norwegian coast, but only in one instance is it thought that a possible hit was obtained on a ship.

This morning Blenheims successfully attacke the Naval docks and power station at Lorient.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

THISTLE Damaged

Examination vessel THISTLE was damaged by attack at Lowestoft this evening.

M/S Trawlers off Dover

2 aircraft dropped bombs near M/S Trawlers off Dover this afternoon. No damage resulted.

Attack on Portsmouth CAMERON Destroyed

Portsmouth was attacked this evening. CAMERON (Town Class destroyer) was hit in No 8 dock and it is thought she will be a total loss. Some damage was caused to Clarence Yard, VERNON and DOLPHIN, and there were some casualties.

Mining

One or two enemy aircraft were minelaying off the Harwich-Clacton area between 2100/4 and 0100/5. Minelaying last night also took place off the S.W. Coast.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Plymouth.

The Humber was opened early this morning

Milford Haven was opened about noon subject to local restrictions.

Operation S.N. 10.A.

R.A.M.L. with 4 minelayers escorted by 4 destroyers left Port Z.A. at 1530 to lay mines in Denmark Strait. REPULSE with 4 destroyers left Scapa at 1735/5 as cover escort. ARETHUSA from Scapa provided escort.

Swedish Waters

N.A.Stockholm reports that a Swedish fishing vessel was mined on 6/11 off North SKagen and three others at the southern end of German declared area since then. On 1/12 Danish fishing vessel VICTORIA was sunk off South Skagen.

Bomber Command aircraft laid mines successfully last night off an enemy occupied harbour.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD sailed today to patrol off the Azores.

German SS KLAUS SCHOKE sank today.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE
Action with Raider

CARNARVON CASTLE was in action at 0800 today with a merchant ship raider using complete director system which escaped behind smoke at 0910 and was last seen at 1400 G.M.T. in position 31° 0' S., 43° 15' W (500 miles South of Rio de Janeiro) steering 40° at 19 knots.

CARNARVON CASTLE is proceeding to Montevideo to make good extensive damage. She has fired 500 rounds and estimates at least 10 hits on the enemy and that the raider, which had two serious fires, was considerably damaged.

CARNARVON CASTLE was hit 23 times and will have to undergo dockyard refit before being fit for further service.

Mediterranean

British Naval and Military Missions in Turkey are to be established as soon as the consent of the Turkish Govt. has been obtained.

China

OLE JACOB

The Norwegian tanker OLE JACOB, which made a raider distress message at 1347/10/11 arrived at Kobe today flying the German flag with a German prize crew on board.

America & West Indies

"Town"
Destroyers

The remaining 6 U.S. Destroyers, hitherto manned by R,C.N. care and maintenance parties were commissioned today by R.N. crews- SALISBURY, NEWMARKET, RICHMOND, NEWARK, WELLS, NEWPORT.

/Australia.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia

SS NIMBIN (1052 tons) was sunk today between Newcastle and Sydney, near the Coast. The survivors are convinced that the explosion was external.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Waters

Destroyer Patrol

Three destroyers from Portsmouth patrolled last night to southward of the convoy route between the Owers and Royal Sovereign L.V's. They had nothing to report.

Ships in Distress

A gale is blowing. Some 19 merchant vessels made distress signals today. Some minor warships are involved. BLYSKAWICA returned to the Clyde with damaged steering gear. HURRICANE has all her guns out of action, all boats lost and other damage.

F/S CHEVREUIL anchored at Rothesay with engines disabled.

Submarine UNBEATEN broke adrift from TITANIA and after collision with a merchant ship went ashore at Holy Loch.

Town Class Destroyers

With the exception of the 4 ships allotted to R.A.M.L. all Town class destroyers are to join the Western Approaches Command when ready for service.

Channel Striking Force

The German destroyers operating from Brest have proved themselves faster that the 5th D.F. of the Nore Command which is temporarily operating from Plymouth. The Admiralty propose that the 6th D.F. (Tribals) with the Home Fleet should change places with the 5th D.F. as the Channel Striking Force. Neither C. in C., H.F. nor C. in C., W.A., are in favour of the exchange, however.

U-Boat Tactics

The Admiralty today sent a message to N.C.S.O.'s at home and abroad concerning the tactics of U-Boats now operating in the Atlantic.

Administration of Cruisers

As from today, all cruisers in Home Waters are placed under the administration of C. in C., H.F. Provision of cruisers for other Home Commands will be made as follows when stationed in the South. The necessary instructions being given by the Admty., reliefs being detailed by C. in C., H.F. as necessary.
A. Either 2nd or 15th C.S. or part of them will be placed under temporary operational control of C. in C., Nore and stationed either at the Nore or Humber.

/B.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Waters

Administration of Cruisers-Contd.

B. Either 10th or 18th C.S. or part of them, will be placed under temporary operational control of C. in C., W.A. and stationed at Plymouth or Clyde.

Orkney Defences

The Orkney defences are to be brought to a strength of 3 Hurricane Squadrons. Air Attack on the Fleet as reprisal for Taranto is anticipated.

Enemy Air Activity

Dover Bombed

A stick of bombs was dropped in Dover Harbour this afternoon. No damage resulted.

Portsmouth Attacked

There was another air raid on Portsmouth this evening. Some damage was caused in the dockyard.

Convoy F.S. 53 Attacked

Convoy F.S. 53 was attacked near the Shipwash L.V. this morning. No damage is reported.

Mining

Minelaying activity by enemy aircraft last night was considerably more than of late. 42 aircraft nearly all of whom were presumably minelaying, were operating between 1800 and 2100/3 off the coast between Yarmouth and Southwold, the Lincolnshire coast, and between Aldeburgh and the Thames Estuary.

Mines and explosive cutters were found in the Dover area. Seven ground mines self detonated off St. Anns Head (Milford Haven area)

SS SUPREMITY (554 tons) in Convoy F.S. 51 was mined in the Thames this evening and sank.

Falmouth was opened this afternoon for steam propelled vessels only.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Operation "Ration" is to be put into force as soon as possible.

Portuguese coast watchers in San Miguel Azores last night sighted two suspicious vessels to eastward of Ponta Delgada and two others to westward, one of which appeared to be a man of war.
SHEFFIELD which left Gibraltar at 1500/5 for Azores Patrol has been ordered to proceed with despatch and EDINBURGH, returning to Scapa from Freetown after escorting Convoy W.S. 4 B has been ordered to proceed round St. Miguel.
Submarine CACHALOT is on patrol in this area.

A raider report was made by ROBERT MAERSK at 2245, and a cancellation about an hour later is regarded with suspicion.
CIRCASSIA on Western Patrol is investigating.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE Action with Raider, 5/12.

Investigation is being made as to why no signal concerning this action was received at Freetown until CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201/5 four hours after action was joined.

Shipping sailings from the River Plate are not being suspended

A request has been made for CARNARVON CASTLE to visit Montevideo on 9/12 for 24 hours, which may possibly be extended.

ENTERPRISE is searching for the enemy raider and QUEEN OF BERMUDA is proceeding to fuel at sea prior to resuming patrol.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterrancan

Air Attack on Valona

7 Blenheims attacked Valona this morning. The munitions dump and M.T. part were hit.

Blenheims were despatched to machine-gun enemy troops on the coast road west of Sarande.

Greek Advance

Santi Quaranta was occupied by Greek forces at 1030 today.

East Indies

Air Attack on Assab

3 Blenheims unsuccessfully attacked Assab today.

Suspicious Ship

A suspicious vessel was sighted this morning by BRITISH DUCHESS in the South Mozambique Channel. SHROPSHIRE left Durban about 1200Z/6 to cover shipping there. CERES is in the North Mozambique Channel.

America & West Indies

U-Boat Campaign

FORFAR (A.M.C. sunk 2/12) was struck by 5 torpedoes between 0353/2 and 0455/2. the last exploding the H.A. magazine.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

SEAL

A German broadcast today claimed that H.M.S. SEAL, which was captured after being mined in the Kattegat in May, has been commissioned for service as a U-Boat.

Cable to America

The cable communications between London and America were interrupted by severance of a land line by enemy bomb, from 2345/6 to 0700/7.

Convoy H.N. 53

This convoy, which sails at 0800 is expected to exceed 60 ships. Hunt Class destroyers are to form additional escort.

British Air Operations

Bomber Command

Successful attacks were delivered on Channel ports last night. Zeebrugge and oil tanks at Brest were bombed today; results were not observed.

Coastal Command

Brest, Lorient and Cherbourg were attacked this evening, the two former with success; results at Cherbourg were not seen.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy attacks last night were delivered against the Bristol and Portsmouth areas.

Enemy air activity today was on a very small scale. No attacks on shipping are reported.

Mining

Operations ZME 4 S.N. 10 A

ADVENTURE laid mines this evening in the declared area south of St. Georges Channel. This operation was carried out today (see 5/12)

M/S Trawler CAPRICORNUS Damaged

M/S Trawler CAPRICORNUS was damaged by near mine explosion this evening and was beached near Nore L.V.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

1200 French Foreign Legion are to be moved from Duala to Port Sudan in CASAMANCE and CAPO OLMO.

CARNARVON CASTLE Action

C. in C., South Atlantic considers that CARNARVON CASTLE's action with a raider on 5/12 emphasises the importance of A.M.C.'s being fitted with longer range guns.

Mediterranean

Tripoli was attacked by 11 Wellingtons this afternoon, Castel Benito aerodrome, where several air craft were destroyed, being the principal objective.

Blenheims attacked Valona three times today In the first attack, a large ship was hit and bombs burst in the dockyard area.

Photographic reconnaissance of Naples today showed 2 battleships and 5 cruisers in harbour, and several destroyers in dry dock.

Italian Reinforcements

R.C. today showed a large number of transports and merchantmen newly arrived at Valona (These were perhaps the ships described in R.C. yesterday as a "battle-cruiser", 3 destroyers and merchant vessels. Many other ships, including large transports were seen disembarking troops at Krioness, in Valona Bay.

A large convoy escorted by several destroyers is reported to have left Trieste today for Albania (B.2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

China

The Norwegian crew of the tanker OLE JACOB (captured last month) have been landed by the Germans at Kobe and the ship sailed p.m. 5/12

Australia

The British ship HERTFORD was mined today in the Approaches to Adelaide and was towed to Spalding Cove, Port Lincoln.

America & West Indies

REVENGE reports she has not met Convoy S.C. 14 after a 24 hour search in poor visibility, and that bad weather persists. She has resumed her passage.

U-Boat Campaign

A preliminary investigation by Capt. D. Liverpool into the attack on H.X. 90 on 2/12 states that a U-Boat was probably destroyed by FOLKESTONE after torpedoing STIRLINGSHIRE.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Norwegian Ore Trade

It is reported that small shipments of iron ore from Narvik to Germany will begin at the end of this month in German ships hugging the coast of Norway to the Kattegat and thence through the Kiel Canal. 200,000 tons a month is aimed at from February onwards.

SUNFISH Report

SUNFISH reports that she sank a 4000 ton merchant vessel off Stadlandet 5/12 and probably obtained one hit with torpedo on a 4000 ton tanker off Stadlandet on 7/12.

Heavy weather in N.W.Approaches

Shipping is experiencing heavy weather in the N.W. Approaches. HESPERUS, who has a leak in her forward magazine, met BULOLO, ocean escort of Convoy S.L. 56, none of which were in sight, having been lost to sight the previous evening; GARLAND and HARVESTER failed to meet the convoy and turned back to Loch Foyle. Convoy H.X. 91 is scattered; WALKER and VANSITTART (escorts) have both sustained damage, and WALKER reports that nothing has been seen or heard of CANDYTUFT since the gale of 5/12.

British Air Activity

Coastal Command

Two special equipment aircraft patrolled the track of Convoy O.B. 254 in the N.W. Approaches last night.

Blenheims attacked the docks, shipyards and power station at Lorient this evening

Beauforts attacked Brest.

23 Convoys were escorted today.

Bomber Command

Boulogne and Calais were attacked last night, and aerodromes at Flushing and Ostend.

Owing to bad weather no day operations were carried out.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

YEWARCH in Convoy F.S. 55 was bombed and hit while at anchor off the Humber, and TREVERBYN was attacked in the N.W.Approaches today.

M/S Trawler CARISBROOKE is reported by F.O.I.C. Yarmouth to have been damaged by air attack (? in attack on Yarmouth 7/12)

The P.L.A. building was seriously damaged during a heavy attack on London tonight.

Mining

No minelaying by enemy aircraft was suspected last night.

Examination vessel MINNA was damaged by a mine in the Firth of Forth today.

WINDSOR was mined off Aldeburgh this evening and was towed to Harwich.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE Raider — It is thought that the raider engaged by CARNARVON CASTLE on 5/12 may be the LEVANTE, of Atlas-Levante Line, or a similar ship.

SS HIDLEFJORD — (Norwegian 7659 tons) Table Bay to Freetown reported at 1511N/8 that she was being fired on by a "mysterious" ship 8 miles off, about 185 miles south of Freetown, which later disappeared.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

British Advance Begins — The Army commenced offensive operations against the Italians in the Western Desert today.

Naval Cooperation — TERROR, APHIS and LADYBIRD, supported by JERVIS, JANUS and NUBIAN cooperated off the coast west of Mersa Matruh.

America & West Indies

IDARWALD Intercepted — DIOMEDE today intercepted the German SS IDARWALD to the east of Yucatan Strait The ship was abandoned and on fire, and DIOMEDE was unable to prevent her from sinking.

Australia

Raider — An enemy raider today attacked shipping lying off Nauru (Pleasant Is., Pacific) SS TRADIC was seen on fire and possibly 4 other ships were attacked. Two vessels with Japanese markings were seen standing by TRIADIC, but no Japanese ship was expected at Nauru. A large vessel, presumed to be the raider, made off at 0510Z/9 in a south easterly direction.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer Patrol

Four destroyers from Plymouth patrolled last night off the coast between Eddystone and Wolf Rock, to protect convoy leaving Dartmouth yesterday evening westwards.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Naval targets attacked last night included docks at Flushing, Dunkirk and Gravelines, docks and shipping at Bordeaux and Lorient. A direct hit on a submarine at Bordeaux is claimed, and many fires and explosions were caused,

Coastal Command

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked targets at Lorient, Cherbourg and Bordeaux.

Mining

Mines were found today in the Bristol Channel (A/A 542 ROYAL SOVEREIGN sunk off Cardiff); in the Tyne where SS HINDPOOL was mined at a buoy early in the afternoon and the port was at once closed; In the Firth of Forth where WOLSEY exploded a mine without harm, and at Sheerness.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD attacked a submarine with unknown results this afternoon close west of the Azores. She considers that a submarine patrol exists there.

Mediterranean

Bombardment of Maksila and Sidi Barrani

Last night, TERROR, LADYBIRD and APHIS bombarded Maksila and Sidi Barrani with F.A.A. and R.A.F. cooperation.

Valona.

Offensive R.C. of Valona Bay saw 22 ships in the harbour, 13 of which were between 5000 and 15000 tons.

America & West Indies

Submarine Sighted

A submarine is reported to have been sighted off the south coast of Cuba.

Town Class Destroyers Damaged

NEWMARKET, WELLS and NEWARK were damaged by mischance while manoeuvring in dock today and will have to be docked. READING RAMSEY and RIDLEY left St. Johns N.F. for U.K. 1930 G.M.T/8 but RIDLEY returned to St. John's this morning with steering defect.

Australia

A.C.N.B. today outlined their commitments and made proposals for reinforcement of the Station.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Specimen".

PEGASUS sailed early this morning from Belfast, for operations with Convoy OG47.

Convoy HX92.

The ocean escort and half of convoy HX92 have been dispersed by the gale.

British Air Activity.

Coastal Command.

A Patrol was flown this forenoon to intercept the enemy long range aircraft which operates daily off the South West Coast of Ireland.

The W/T Station on Vikero Island, off Romsdalsfjord was attacked today.

Bomber Command.

Bad weather on the Continent caused operations to be considerably reduced last night. Lorient was successfully attacked.

Enemy Air Activity.

There were no attacks on shipping or naval ports today, and practically no offensive activity, whatever, though two convoys called for fighter protection.

MOST SECRET.

10.12.1940.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation, 2 M.E.5.

ADVENTURE reported this operation (minelaying in the declared area South of St. George's Channel) completed shortly before midnight today.

No minelaying by enemy aircraft was detected last night.
The Tyne and Thames are open, the latter with certain precautions.

South Atlantic.

The suggestion that Dutch ships in British convoys are guiding U /Boats to attack is made by N.C.S.O. Freetown today.

Mediterranean.

REGULUS lost.

REGULUS is 3 days overdue from patrol in the Gulf of Otranto and Adriatic and must be regarded as lost.

Air attack on Valona; ship hit.

5 Blenheims attacked Valona today. One ship was hit on the stern.

Advance of the army in Egypt.

Naval units are supporting the advance of the army, off the Coast of Egypt.
Lighters are being used to ease the Transport difficulties of the army.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

SOUTHAMPTON attacked shipping firing 7 salvoes at a Japanese ship, at Kismayu today. Results were not apparent. The shore batteries fired accurately at SOUTHAMPTON up to 24000 yards, but caused no damage.

China.

The policy of gradual withdrawal of British and Allied ships from Japanese waters is likely to be accelerated in the near future.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Coastal Command aircraft this evening attacked targets at Brest. The aircraft security ship FRIESENLAND, one of the targets had already left Brest by 11/12.

Air reconnaissance today showed 9 U-Boats in Brest.

Bomber Command

Enemy occupied ports in France and Belgium were attacked last night by a light force.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Shipping

Most of the attacks made today on shipping were in the Thames Estuary and S.E. of Harwich. Convoy F.S. 57 was attacked in the forenoon and again in the afternoon and three small ships SS LANARK, SAXON QUEEN and TOR were slightly damaged but continued under their own steam.

Convoy F.N. 57 was attacked twice during the afternoon, but no damage is reported.

Drifter JOHN ALFRED was attacked and damaged and was towed to Brightlingsea.

A Swedish ship was bombed but not damaged in the N.W. Approaches.

Mining

Apart from some black cylindrical objects dropped by aircraft in the Thames Approaches after dark this evening, there are no reports of enemy aircraft minelaying today or last night.

On account of acoustic mines, the maximum number of motor ships, both ocean going and coasters, are to use the East coast ports.

/British.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

British Minelaying

Bomber Command aircraft continued mine-laying activities off the west coast of France last night. Swordfish of the F.A.A. laid mines this evening at Brest, under cover of the operation carried out by Coastal Command.

Operations Against Vichy French

1 The present Admiralty policy regarding French merchant vessels is laid down in F.O.C.N.A. 1224/5 and Admty 1133/11)

Mediterrancan

Sidi Barrani was captured by our troops today. Naval units cooperated with the Army and harassed the retreat of the Italians, ILLUSTRIOUS providing fighter protection, escorted by 3rd C.S. and destroyers. F.A.A. aircraft also carried out bombing operations at Sollum and the escarpment road.

America & West Indies

1 German SS RHEIN has been intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN north west of Key West. the RHEIN set herself on fire and had to be sunk by CARADOC.

C. in C., A.W.I. has made proposals for coordination of intelligence in the Jamaica area, as counter action to the highly organised enemy system.

He also reports that the situation in Trinidad and Jamaica with regard to the examination of passengers and cargo in transit is very unsatisfactory, and en agents and contraband are able to pass through.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia

A.C.N.B. has decided to release surface forces to operate against raiders on ocean trade routes. The method intended, is to escort as many ships as can be got together without imposing a long delay on shipping. The ships will be spaced at twice visibility distance apart by day and it is anticipated that these modified convoys will not be greater that 4 Or 5 ships.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

For greater security from possible air attack QUEEN ELISABETH left Portsmouth this afternoon for Rosyth, via the Irish Sea, escorted by 8 destroyers.

British Air Activity

Heavy attacks were made by Bomber Command last night on ports from Dunkirk to Dieppe.

Coastal Command last night attacked Brest (heavily) and Bordeaux. Two hits and a near miss were obtained on a 7000 ton merchant ship off the Helder this evening.

Brest was attacked again this evening.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 58, and a drifter and a patrol boat were attacked at various times today in the Nore area, without damage. The drifter and patrol boat drove off the enemy aircraft in flames.

Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night, estimated number 50, but areas were identified.

Objects believed to be mines were dropped last night at the Nore.

The Humber was closed at 2307 on account of suspected minelaying.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

TERROR and the two gunboats assisted by 4 destroyers continued the bombardment of the coast of Egypt last night during an important period.

A large number of naval units have been employed in taking supplies to troops in advanced positions and in evacuating prisoners of which there are reported to be 30,000. Strong westerly winds considerably hindered the work.

Aircraft of the F.A.A. last night successfully cooperated with the Army by bombing in the Sollum area and the escarpment road south of Sollum.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — Night operations on 12/13-12 were cancelled owing to weather, and for the same reason all aircraft were forced to abandon their tasks today.

Coastal Command — Hudson aircraft on patrol off Den Helder scored a direct hit on a 7,000 ton supply ship last night. Blenheim aircraft off Norway scored 2 hits on a 2000 ton merchant ship off Utyoer Light. Bordeaux was raided this evening with good results.

Enemy Air Activity

Activity last night was on a small scale, and chiefly confined to minelaying.

The raid on Prater Mine Depot on the night of 11-12 caused only slight damage to fencing.

Mining

A very large number of mines were laid from aircraft near Thames Boom last night. The Thames and Medway were closed at 0403 today.

The Humber was opened this morning.

WINDSOR, Destroyer, mined on 8/12, arrived at the Nore in tow of ST. MELLONS last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Operation "Ration"

French SS AVANT-GARDE was intercepted off Cape Tresforcas this morning and taken to Gibraltar. She was alone, outside Spanish territorial waters

North Atlantic

It was reported from Tangier this morning that both the Italian submarines sailed at 0430/13.

TRIDENT is to relieve CACHALOT on the Azores Patrol.

South Atlantic

NEWTON PINE, independently for U.K., reported today that she was being gunned by a submarine in the South Atlantic in 2° 6' N 22° 0' W., about 700' S.W. of Freetown.

ENTERPRISE arrived at Montevideo this afternoon on a 48 hour visit.

Passengers and crews from the French CUBA and INDOCHINOIS were removed today after having been kept on baord at Freetown for several weeks.

Mediterranean

COVENTRY Torpedoed

COVENTRY Was torpedoed by a U-Boat this evening but was able to proceed to Alexandria at 13 knots.

TERROR Bombardment

TERROR engaged in the bombardment of Bardia, was unsuccessfully attacked by an E-Boat last night.

Bardia & Tobruk Bombed

Bardia and Tobruk were attacked by the R.A.F. and F.A.A. last night.

Main Fleet

BARHAM, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, GLOUCESTER, YORK and 12 destroyers returned to Alexandria today from operations off the Libyan Coast in support of the Army.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

DESPATCH arrived at Bermuda this evening on her return to the Station, from which she had been absent since September.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep by M.T.B's.

Last night, M.T.B's carried out a sweep off Flushing and Ostend. No enemy ships were sighted.

British Air Activity

Coastal Command

Beauforts attacked submarines at Bordeaux last night, dropping heavy calibre bombs in the target area.

Routine and special patrols were on a reduced scale owing to unfavourable weather.

Bomber Command

Owing to adverse weather, operations were considerably reduced last night. A small force of heavy bombers attacked shipyards and dock areas in North Germany. Day operations were abandoned.

Enemy Air Activity

Apparent minelaying last night extended from the Thames Estuary to the Humber and Tyne areas.

Mining

17 enemy mines of various types were exploded by the weather, 10 in Falmouth Bay 5 in Penzance Bay, 2 off Fowey. Six were cut and exploded off Dover.

The Tyne-Blyth inshore channel, Great Yarmouth, Kyles of Bute, and Belfast degaussing range were closed.

ADVENTURE continued minelaying this evening in the declared area south of St. George's Channel.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping

Distress Messages

To avoid doubt as to whether the cancellation of a Q., R., or S message is genuine, ships are to transmit a coded message cancelling the original report about one hour after cancelling the distress message in plain language.

North Atlantic

Azores Patrol

Force H (less SHEFFIELD) is to establish a patrol to present any enemy attempt to capture the Azores. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar for this duty at 1030 today, and should arrive off the Azores p.m./16. Submarines UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE have been ordered to patrol in the Bay of Biscay.

Operation "Ration"

Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders.

South Atlantic

Force "Shrapnel"

C. in C., South Atlantic reports that to meet commitments for Shrapnel Force, MILFORD and DELHI must be recalled from Libreville Patrol, leaving no vessels for this patrol.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Valona and Bardia Attacked

Valona was bombed by the R.A.F. this morning and Bardia both by the R.A.F. and F.A.A. in conjunction with a bombardment by TERROR.

Tripoli Bombed

F.A.A. Swordfish from Malta attacked Tripoli last night, and scored dive bombing hits on 2 ships alongside the North Mole, others in mid-stream, and on warehouses.

Crotone Bombed

Crotone Harbour (entrance to Gulf of Taranto) was bombed (apparently for the first time) last night by 1 Wellington. All bombs were seen to burst along the waterfront.

NAIADE Sunk

The Italian S/M NAIADE was sunk at 1850 today by a destroyer of the 2nd Flotilla N.E. of Derna. 47 Officers and men were taken prisoners.

Malta Raid

Malta was raided at midday today, but no service casualties or damage were caused.

COVENTRY

COVENTRY, torpedoed last night, arrived Alexandria, and reports only slight damage, confined right forward. An Italian communique claims she was torpedoed by NEGHELLI.

MALAYA

It has been approved to send MALAYA to join Force H.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

In view of a possible break-out by the German ORINOCO from Tampico, CARADOC has been ordered to leave Jamaica to-morrow morning for Nassau, Bahamas, via Crooked Island Passage, to arrive on the morning of 17/12.

U-Boat Campaign

WESTERN PRINCE, sailing independently from New York to Liverpool with a special cargo, was torpedoed this morning in the N.W. Approaches. Mr. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions, and 3 of his staff were on board, but were rescued.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by NIGERIA, CURACOA, and 4 Destroyers arrived at Rosyth at 1330 today from Portsmouth.

At 2105 tonight a single E-Boat torpedoed the Danish N.C.MONBERG of 2301 tons in convoy F.S. 60 when some 2 miles South of Smiths Knoll Light Vessel. The N.C.MONBERG subsequently sank and, though engaged at full speed by WOOLSTON, the E-Boat escaped behind a smoke screen.

Brest was attacked by our aircraft during the night 14/15 and 2 heavy Bombs were seen to fall in the Target Area. Lorient was attacked by 4 aircraft of the Coastal Command during the night and damage is believed to have been done to Submarines and the Dockyard there. Special importance is now attached to Rosyth, and the Coastal Command has ordered that all aircraft should be routed from today to avoid the defended area.

Great Yarmouth was opened to navigation at 0851 this morning, and one red Mine was detonated in the Thames Estuary at 2115 last night by LL Trawlers. ADVENTURE is complete with Mines and fuel and at 4 hours notice; and the Mining Operation B.S. 47 has been postponed for a further 24 hours.

An unknown ship was sighted by a Trawler of the Northern Patrol in 62° 32' N., 13°35' W., at 1445 today, steering S.S.E; but contact with her was lost in the heavy rain.

Two mines were dropped by aircraft between the Castle and Fort Burgoyne at Dover at about 2100 tonight, causing only very slight damage and one slight casualty.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

French Light Cruiser

French light cruiser MILAN and four French submarines passed Gibraltar west bound at noon.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD

The SHEFFIELD has arrived at Gibraltar from the Azores. The tanker ORANGE LEAF has sailed to join Force H.

South Atlantic

MILFORD

H.M.S.MILFORD (sloop) has been ordered by C. in C., S.A., to proceed to Freetown with despatch (see 14/12/40 force "Shrapnel") Shrapnel Force has been instructed that if opposition is encountered, the operation is to be carried through by force.

U-Boat

BRIDGEWATER while assisting ENGLISH TRADER reported a U-Boat at 0412 off Dakar which was chased for 30 minutes. Not known whether French or enemy

Mediterranean

C. in C., in WARSPITE is at Alexandria with VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, 3rd C.S. and destroyers, due to leave for Crete. BARHAM (F.O. 1st B.S.) EAGLE and 19th Destroyer Flotilla will remain at Alexandria to conduct the operation along the coast.

Naples

On the night of 14/15, Naples was bombed by the R.A.F. and hits registered on a concentration of cruisers and destroyers and on a jetty where two battleships were moored.

/SOUTHAMPTON....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd

SOUTHAMPTON
PERTH

SOUTHAMPTON and PERTH (cruisers) have been ordered to join Mediterranean Fleet from East Indies, vice GLASGOW and SYDNEY (see Australia)

Adriatic

TETRARCH (submarine) sighted nothing while patrolling off Pelagosa Island.

Libya

Naval forces are continuing operations in support of the Army. PROTECTOR (netlayer), CHAKLA and FIONA (armed boarding vessels) and other craft are working between Alexandria and Sidi Barrani landing supplies and removing prisoners to Alexandria.

Bardia
Sollum

During the night of 14-15th Dec. Wellingtons bombed Bardia starting a very large oil fire. Blenheims bombed the barracks at Sollum.

East Indies

Assab

Supply depot at Assab was bombed by Blenheims and the barracks set on fire.

Traffic and Convoy

C. in C., reports that there are generally some 350 merchant ships on the East Indies Station. THe routes most exposed to raider attack are (a) Cape to Colombo to Achim Head (Sumatra) (b) Australia to Colombo (c) Australia to Cape. Route (a) is the densest, aften carrying some 100 ships and must therefore have first call on ships available for protection. "A modified Convoy system as proposed is obviously not practicable on this route except possibly very occasionally from Colombo to Achim Head. More ships would be necessary before C. in C., could cooperate with the system on route (b) and (c).

H.S. Note. Distance from the Cape to Colombo via Mauritius is about 4400 miles. There were 7 cruisers and 6 armed merchant cruisers in East Indies Command on Dec.9. 3 of these cruisers were attached to the Red Sea Force, which absorbed a large portion of his ships, including 9 out of 12 sloops. For "Modified Convoy System" see Situation Report 11.12.40, Australia.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies-Contd.

OLE JACOB — Singapore reports that it is certain that the OLE JACOB was in company with raider on 16.11.40. (Note. OLE JACOB, Norwegian tanker 8306 tons was captured by a raider on 10.11.40 in 6° 30' N., 90° 13' E. (Colombo to Sumatra route)

Ships Leaving — The following ships are leaving the East Indies Command. The SOUTHAMPTON (cruiser) for Mediterranean; the WESTRALIA (armed merchant cruiser) for Australia; the PERTH (cruiser, Red Sea Force) for Mediterranean. It is intended that four Hunt class destroyer shall join the Red Sea Force.

America & West Indies

Escorts — C. in C., considers three destroyers inadequate for PENNLAND and COLOMBIA and intends to attach one or two additional.

Force K. — C. in C., asks for information that Force K will act under his orders when operating against raiders in station limits.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia

WESTRALIA
SYDNEY

In view of increasing raider activities in Australian waters and to provide a relief for the GLASGOW damaged in Mediterranean the following redisposition has been approved by the Admiralty.

(a) WESTRALIA (armed merchant cruiser) to return to Australia (from East Indies)

(b) SOUTHAMPTON (cruiser) to join Mediterranean Fleet (from East Indies)

(c) SYDNEY (cruiser) to return to Australia (from Mediterranean)

(d) PERTH (cruiser) to join Mediterranean Fleet (from Red Sea Force)

The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board have been asked to agree to four Bathurst minesweepers being allocated to Mediterranean

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WESTERN PRINCE. (torpedoed 14/12.)

Your 0932/15. Not circulating - requesting report on WESTERN PRINCE) WESTERN PRINCE sank about 0930 yesterday Saturday.
(ACTIVE 1016/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

GWALIA (torpedoed 2/12.)

My 1632/14/12.* Ship was torpedoed at 0530/2 in Convoy O.G.46 and sank in three minutes. Presumed that books went down with her. Information obtained from the four survivors of crew of twenty. My 1211/15/12 gives names of Survivors.

*(Re Swedish ship GWALIA).

ORARI (torpedoed 14/12.)

Have searched along track of ORARI and in the vicinity of Galway Bay without result. Maximum visibility has been one mile. Am standing by to seaward till daylight. Request if possible more recent position of ORARI.
(VANQUISHER 1750/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

DAPHNE. (torpedoed 3/12.)

Swedish, 1513 tons, reported torpedoed 3/12 off S.W. Coast of Spain. 18 of crew of 19 are missing. 1 survivor, picked up by a Spanish ship, states DAPHNE sank in half a minute, no time to launch the boats. (D.S.468).

Submarines Reported.

1639. 1639. 58°-60°N., 25 W, very indefinite. (D.S.468).

1841. W. or W.N.W. of Ireland, very indefinite. (D.S.468).

0925. 60° to 61°N., 1° to 3° E, indefinite. (D.S. 467).

0450. 14.59'N., 20.6'W, sighted by BRIDGEWATER. (D.S.467).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Reported.

Search.

Cancel my 2212/14. (Rejoin Convoy (ACTIVE searching for submarine)) (C.in C. W.A. 0008/15 to ACTIVE.

Your 2311. Return to Convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 0036/15 to ANTELOPE).

Weather deteriorating rapidly, conditions very bad for anti-submrine. Request permission to abandon hunt at 0815 today Sunday. (ACTIVE 0242/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 0242 approved. Rejoin Convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 0412/15 to ACTIVE.)

One submarine in sight bearing 270 degs. distant 4 miles course 180 degs. my position 293 15° N., 20° W., 7. (BRIDGEWATER 0412/15 to Freetown W/T).

Submarine on surface at 0450 in position 014 59' North 020 06 West. Made away at high speed course 185 quickly out of sight. Chased 30 minutes then returned to ENGLISH TRADER.
Suggest tug HUDSON sent to position given to enable me maintain efficient screen.
Essential ENGLISH TRADER tow BRIDGEWATER, asdic? is at present negative .
Request instructions.
(BRIDGEWATER, 0530/15).

My 2139/11 and BRIDGEWATER's 0412/15.
Following received from BRIDGEWATER, T.O.O. 0530/15. (quoted).
Tug HUDSON joining BRIDGEWATER at best speed Nationality of submarine not known whether French or definitely enemy.
(C.in C. S.A. 1107N/15 to Adty).

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

Italian. 1 probably about 300 miles West of Madiera.
1 near Azores.
1 arriving Gironde.
1 may still be in Area 53° N., to 54° N., 19° W., to 20° W.
1 more in N.W.Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 was in about 45° N., 9° W., at 1729/14 destination unknown, possibly Azores.

German.
1 was probably in 2° 06'N., 22° W., at 1818/13.
1 was in 14° 59'N., 20° 06'W at 0450/15.
1 bound for Lorient may be about 48° N., 8° W.
1 may be about 48 degs N., 14 degs W. bound for Lorient.
1 has probably left North Cornwall for Lorient.
2 between 55 degs N., and 58 degs N.16 degs W and 21 degs. West.
1 probably North of 55 degs. N. East of 12 degs W.
1 in 59 degs. 48'N., 18 degs 13' West at 2015/14.
1 between 60 degs. N., and 61 degs N 1 deg E. and 3 degs East at 0925/15.
(D.D.I.C. 1251/15 V.A.S. 1426/15).

Submarines Attacked.

1415. By a/c 37° N., 15.45°E. 090° Syracuse 20' attacked by gunfire.
(D.S.468.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

F.O.I.C. Humber considers that the Acoustic Mining situation in the Humber Approach Channels renders it inadvisable for Destroyers to proceed in and out for working up practices if other facilities are available.

Operation P.V.I. to locate and destroy E-Boats minelaying in the swept channel off Harwich was carried out between 2030 and 2230 tonight to practice the Aircraft concerned and the intercommunication required.

Submarines at Lorient and Bordeaux were attacked last night by our Aircraft, and a Patrol from Dyce to Flamborough and return was flown during the forenoon.

Plymouth was attacked during last night by aircraft which dropped 4 H.E. Bombs in the sound and a few incendiaries in the Town; and at 1150 today H.M.Drifter UBERITY had a machine-gun action with one enemy aircraft off Lowestoft in which 4 men were wounded, 2 dangerously, and the aircraft reported herself damaged.

There is evidence that enemy traffic along the Norwegian Coast is increasing in importance, and it is proposed to lay a Minefield to impede it between Egersund and Point Jaederens. Aircraft minelaying continues; and during a routine sweep at Dover today one Mine was found and 4 explosive cutters.

The French Destroyer BRANLEBAS left Dartmouth as escort to a west-bound Convoy 1800/13 with orders to return to Dartmouth by 1000/15. She has not since been heard of and must now be presumed lost, probably by heavy weather.

MOST SECRET

16.12.1940
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

OREGON has been ordered to call at Gibraltar to repatriate 88 French merchant seamen and officers anxious to return to unoccupied France. The French Admiralty has approved on condition that she transports no merchandise.

Consul, Las Palmas, reports that the French CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN arrived there on Monday from Casablanca.

North Atlantic

Azores Patrol

BERWICK has been ordered to leave Gibraltar tomorrow to patrol off the Azores.

After CIRCASSIA leaves patrol in Area G.3. tomorrow, Admiralty have notified F.O.C.N.P. that it will be unnecessary to maintain an A.M.C. on patrol in the vicinity of the Azores, and A.M.C's returning to Western Patrol can therefore be employed in the more direct trade routes.

ASPHODEL and CALENDULA (corvettes) on passage from Londonderry to Freetown, left Ponta Delgada this afternoon. C.O., ASPHODEL considers it impracticable to oil a destroyer off the Azores in winter months.

RESOLUTION and VINDICTIVE, with destroyer escort, arrived at Gibraltar this morning from Freetown.

A report having been received from Consul Malaga, that silver was to be transhipped last night from a pilot boat to an Italian warship off that port VELOX (destroyer) and aircraft were sent to investigate. VELOX returned with nothing to report, but the London flying boat saw a large swirl beside the pilot boat which might have been a submarine.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic-Contd.

Tangier — Spanish infantry, estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000 are arriving at Tangier to replace Moorish troops transferred to Larache and Melusa.

Bordeaux-Lisbon Convoy — Consul-General, Lisbon, learns that the Germans are organising in Bordeaux a large convoy to be escorted to Lisbon within territorial waters.

South Atlantic

Neutrality Zone — Until further orders no merchant ship is to be stopped within the American neutrality zone without definite instructions This includes all French Ships.

NATIA — A boat has been found of the British NATIA, which made a raider report on 22/10 from latitude just north of the Equator on her way to Buenos Aires.

Transport of Aircraft — FURIOUS has been informed by D.N.A.D. that 27 of the Hurricane aircraft transported on her last trip were in action by December 12. She landed 33 Hurricanes at Takoradi on November 29.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Dodecanese. C.in C. Medit. and C.in C. Mid East have sent a joint appreication on this subject.

Fleet. The Fleet (1st Division 1st B.S., ILLUSTRIOUS, 3 Cruiser Squadron and destroyers) has left Alexandria to assist the Greek operations.

Bardia. During the night of 16-16 Dec., 36 bombers carried out an attack on Bardia, in order to force the enemy to evacuate the town. Hits were made on barracks and stores, starting large fires.

Sollum Sollum and Fort Capuzzo have

Italian U-boat. The Italian submarine sunk by destroyers on 14/1850 in 32°3'N. 25°36'E., about 30 miles N. of Sidi Barrani was the NAIDE ~~MECHELLI~~. Five officers, 10 petty officers and 32 men were taken prisoner.

East Indies.

Troop Convoy. Convoy W.S.4 B (10 transports) escorted by DEVONSHIRE and SHROPSHIRE left Durban for Suez this morning.

Distress Signal. A "Q" distress signal was intercepted this afternoon by s.s. SHILLONG, then S.E. of Maldive Islands, but was broken off incomplete without position or name of transmitting ship. C.in C., East Indies, ordered HOBART and CAPETOWN to the vicinity, and RANCHI, which arrives Mahe, Seychelles, to refuel within the next 12 hours, to proceed afterwards eastward along the trade route. WESTRALIA is to R.V. with oiler APPLELEAF early on 18/12 to escort her to the Maldive Islands.

China.

Air Mission. Air Ministry is unable to agree to the despatch of an air mission to the Chinese Government, having neither personnel nor aircraft to spare.

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

"Town" Destroyers. — The ex-American destroyers RIPLEY and ROXBOROUGH left St. John's N.F. this afternoon for U.K.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN left Halifax today to cover H.X. and S.C. convoys.

American Neutral Zone. — C.in C., America and West Indies, has ordered that until further notice no neutral ship is to be stopped within American neutral zone waters as defined by the Declaration of Panama, 1939, except upon express orders from the Admiralty or himself. This includes French ships. C.O's are not to be influenced by the zone limits when investigating ships flying neutral colours suspected of being disguised enemy ships.

Australia.

Minesweepers for Med'n. — Australia Commonwealth Naval Board has agreed to the Admiralty suggestion to release certain of the new BATHURST class minesweepers for service in the Mediterranean.

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-Boat Campaign.

Duel in S. Atlantic.

S.S. NEWTON PINE reported this evening that when in the vicinity of Freetown on 13/12 she was attacked by torpedo, which was avoided, and then had a gunnery duel with the U-boat for half an hour.
She had no casualties or damage and estimates that the submarine was damaged.

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Air Decoys. It has been agreed that where several interests are concerned in Deroy arrangements the primarily interested party should co-ordinate the method of control of the Deroy. Request you prepare scheme of control for Petroleum Board Deroy at Polmont, and consider requirements for control of Dezoys at Letham Moss for Grangemouth, Abercorn for Port Edgar, and Loch Fenn for Rosyth. (D of L.D. 1114/16 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Exercise Area for Portuguese S/M's. A.M.373. A. Para. 2b. Following area has been agreed. (A.C.N.S. F. 1126/16:A.M.611A.)

9th M/L. Flotilla. Ninth M.L. Flotilla consisting of M.Ls. 169, 170, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176 and 178 is to assemble and remain based in Clyde area at Troon. M.L. 169 is to join flotilla on arrival of M.L. 133 at St. Christopher. One division of this flotilla is to be made available for special A/S trials as required by NIMROD. Base maintenance crew 'I' from Portsmouth is to proceed to Troon when trained. Base flotilla stores are to be sent accordingly. Accounts of this Flotilla to be carried in FORTITUDE.(D.T.S.D.1336/16.) for D.T.S.D.

Staff at Seydisfjord. Your 1732/13. As only Icelandic fishing vessels are effected and the amount of store ships using Seydisfjord appears to be small, it is requested you will give further details as to why a N.C.S. Staff is required. In any case the acute shortage of personnel will not permit of a staff of four Officers being appointed to Seydisfjord. (A.C.N.S.T. 2159/16 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Isle of Man. Your 1007/13. No Naval operational orders in force in Isle of Man except anti invasion arrangements to demolish portion of Queens Pier Ramsey and to immobilise all cranes in Douglas Harbour. No A/P patrols based on the island. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 1100/16 to Adty.)

DELUGE. At 1130/16. (D.C.1154/16) At 2330/16. D.C. 2350/16.)

Movements.

AMAZON. Your 2130/15 and my 1556/15. Sailed for Escort as in F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0045/16.

RAMILLIES. Cannot make it. E.T.A. 1030/17. Intend pass through following positions. (RAMILLIES 0315/16 to C. in C.W.A.)

RODNEY. Screened by 3 Destroyers to sail for Rosyth at 2200/16. (C. in C. HF.0927/16) My 0927/16. For 2200 read 2359. Speed to be adjusted to pass Oxcars Gate at 1400/17. (C. in C. H.F. 1153/16 to RODNEY

ARGUS. Owing to severe weather have been unable to complete disembarkation of damaged aircraft and other return stores or to embark provisions urgently required. Until this is done and weather moderates it will be impossible to arrange programme for flying on aircraft.(ARGUS 1013/16 to Adty

CIRCASSIA. Route to Gibraltar.(F.O.C.N.P.1040/16.)

KELLY
WHITSHED. My 1156/14, C. in C.H.F. 1347/15, and A.C. W.A. 1914/15.

F.O.I/C Humber considers that the acoustic mining situation in The Humber Approach Channels renders it inadvisable at present for destroyers to proceed in and out for working up practices if other facilities are available. Propose therefore that KELLY and WHITSHED should proceed to Scapa to work up for 14 days. (C. in C. Nore 1202/16 to A.C.W.A.) Your 1202/16. Agree so far as KELLY is

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.Contd.

	concerned. (C. in C.W.A. 1906/16 to C. in C. Nore.) Your 1202/16. Concur (C in C. HF. 2238/16 to C. in C. Nore.)
CATTISTOCK. HOLDERNESS. FERNIE. CLEVELAND.	As RAMILLIES cannot now arrive Plymouth before 1030/17, intend sail Destroyers PM/17 to arrive Nab 0900/18. Regret this will delay C.E.19. (C in C.WA.1312/16 to C. in C. Nore.)
SHELDRAKE.	Sailed 1306. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1312/16.)
	Intend to take Fleet to sea when Force K sails in order to take opportunity of exercising with aircraft and to carry out tactical exercises.(C. in C.H.F. 1417/16 to Adty.)
Northern Patrol.	Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (F.O.C.C.S. 1530/16.)
SALOPIAN.	Leave N.P.42 to arrive REYKJAVIK PM/18, leaving AM/19 by following route to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1546/16.)
WORCESTERSHIRE.	To avoid U-boat alter course as follows (C. in C.W.A. 1613/16 and 1938/16 to WORCESTERSHIRE.)
WOLLINTON.) QUORN.)	Sailed 1704 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1721/16.)
DIDO.	Your 1414/15. Can now be taken in hand on arrival (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1747/16 to C. in C. H.F.) Proceed at 0300/17 to Tyne. (C. in C. H.F. 2329/16 to DIDO.)
READING.) RAMSEY.)	Sailed. E.T.A.Ranse Head 1600/17. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1755/16.)
NAIAD.	With C.S.15, left Scapa 1800. E.T.A. Greenock 1800/17. (F.O.C.C.S. 1810/16.)
KIPLING.	Sailed 2050. E.T.A. Avonmouth 1200/17. C. in C.W.A. 2211/16.)
BONAVENTURE.	Sailed for Clyde. (C. in C. Rosyth 2355/16.)

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation P.V.1. — Will be carried out from 2030 to 2230 tonight to practise A/C and inter-communication. Flares may be dropped or towed between these times. C. in C. Nore 1127/16.

Cancel my 1050/8/12. Following Operation will be known as P.V.1. Details. C. in C. Nore 2000/16.) See Operations volume.

Western Patrol. — MARSDALE, CAMITO, DERBYSHIRE to patrol in following areas respectively. (F.O.C.N.P. 1920/16 to Western Patrol.) My 1530/16. Amend areas as follows. (A.C.H.S.T. 2238/15 to F.O.C.N.P.) (F.O.C.N.P. 2346/16 to Western Patrol.)

Operation. P.V.3. — Following operation will be known as P.V.3 Details. (C. in C. Nore 2252/16.) See Operations Volume.

Submarines.

TUNA. — Remains West of 5 W, until she has reported engine defects made good. (S.2.0646/16 to TUNA.)

TRIDENT. — To proceed by route in my 1003/16 to carry out Patrol in Adty's M.022797/40 with amendment No. 1 and addendum No.1. To leave Patrol after dark 6/1. Homeward Route to Wolf Rock.(S.S.1009/16.)

THUNDERBOLT. — To leave Patrol after dark 17/12. (S.S.1156/16.)

SEAWOLF. — S.S's 0940/15. Sailed 1420/16 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1537/16.)

Greenock Area. — Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1541/16.)

UNRUFFLED. — Sailed escorted by WHITE BEAR. E.T.A. Barrow 1130/17. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1603/16.

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/17. (V.A.S. 1638/16 and 1801/16.)

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

O.23.	Arrived Dundee. (S.9.1643/16.)
L.23.	In Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.C.S.1729/16.)
SEVERN.	Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2100/16.)

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

O.23. Arrived Dundee. (S.9.1643/16.)

L.23. In Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.C.S.1729/16.)

SEVERN. Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2100/16.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrol. By Blenheim A/C from Dyce to Flamborough and return being flown 0845 to 1215 today (C. in C. Rosyth 0900/16).

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn to attack S/M's in Basin tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1420/16).

Lorient. 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack S/M's and Dockyard tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1422/16).

TIRPITZ. 22 Sqdn to attack TIRPITZ tonight in Vauhagen at Wilhelmshaven. Alternative Target shipping at Emden (H.Q.C.C. 1424/16).

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship. AAAA at 0853 (Port Patrick Radio 1004/14)

Unknown Ship in distress about 13 miles N.W. of Mull of Kintyre (Port Patrick Radio 1004/16).

If in vicinity proceed to assist ship bombed in 55° 28'N 6° 2'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1055/16 to ORCHIS, ELLESMERE).

Your 1500 to N.O.I.C. Belfast. Continue search towards 55° 55'N 6° 51'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1804/16 to ELLESMERE).

BIG ISLAND. (British, 3921 Tons) Bombed 300 miles West of Tory Island (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1018/16 to Adty).

Detach one Corvette to assist in about 54° 12'N 17° 45'W separated 1120/16. Corvette to report position of Convoy when well clear of Convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1250/16 and 1400/16 to WHITEHALL).

Corvette has not yet reported. (C. in C. W.A. 0022/17 to WHITEHALL).

GENTIAN was detached at 1402/16. Position of Convoy 53° 42'N. 15° 10'W. (WHITEHALL 0200/17 to C. in C. W.A.).

/Plymouth.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Plymouth. Small raid on Night 15/16. 4 H.E. in Sound, few incendiaries in town. Examination Steamer SIR WALTER RALEIGH slightly damaged by near miss. 1 1 serious casualty, 4 slight. (C. in C. W.A. 1321/16).

UBERITY. (H.M. Drifter). In machine-gun action with A/C at 1150/16 near East Newcombe Buoy. Very slight damage to ship, but 2 dangerously wounded 1 seriously 1 slightly. Ship returned harbour. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1505/16 to Admty).

Dover. At about 2100/15, two Mines from A/C fell between Castle and Fort Burgoyne. Very slight damage and one slight casualty. (V.A. Dover 1525/16).

Mining.

SYLVANA. Request additional seagoing steam driven Dan laying vessel may be allocated to Granton diesel yacht SYLVANNA is only vessel available at present. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/16 to Admty).

Yarmouth. AMROTH CASTLE reported sighting enemy A/C dropping parachute mine 5 miles N.W. of No. 5 buoy. Area being searched by S.A. and L.L. Trawlers. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1145/16 to C. in C. Nore).

Proposed Minefield Norwegian coast. Evidence enemy traffic along Norwegian coast is increasing in importance. Desired to lay minefield to impede this traffic, between Egersund and Jaederess Point. INTREPID and ICARUS can be made available and sailed to reach Scapa 24/12 with outfits of Mark XVII mines. Early remarks requested. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1331/16 to C. in C.H.F.).

Operation. ZME 7 To be carried out 17/12 or as soon after as possible, position 51° 04.5'N, 05° 19.5'W, 119° length 7 miles. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1333/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

/Humber.....

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (continued).

Humber. Departures 16/12 TEVIOT BANK, ICARUS in company at 1355 (F.O. Humber 1416/16).

Dover. Routine sweeps to 0800/16. Found 1 mine and 4 explosive cutters (V.A. Dover 1504/16).

Thames Estuary. Following explosion in addition to mines exploded by sweepers occured in Thames Estuary during night of 15th/16th /12. Possibly near No. 12. Barrow Buoy resembled mine exploding in mid air except that flash was white instead of the usual orange. There were the usual falling fragments. The mine exploded by the sweepers at 0320 near No. 13 Barrow Buoy appeared to throw up fragments resembling incendiary bombs which continued to burn for about 1/2 a minute. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1455/16 to C. in C. Nore).

Technical.

Immunity from D/F. Admiralty's 1219/14. In view of hightly satisfactory results obtained in Netherlands East Indies with regard to immunity from D/F and importance of trials in connection with possible submarine action and other operations S.O.D.S. proposes that wireless Officer on Staff of B.D.Z. makes contact with Admiralty representatives to co-ordinate and arrange trials.
(S.9. 1127/16 to V.A.S.).

Captain (S) 9's 1127/16 with which I concur is passed to you herewith. While it is improbable that sufficient submarines will be available for some time to enable the proposed scheme to be put into operation it is recommended that the wireless officer on the staff of B.D.Z. should discuss details with D.S.O.'s representative.
(V.A.S. 1729/16 to Adty).

Homing of Bombers. I have been interested to learn of the methods used by long range fighters to "Home" on the ships which they are protecting (A.F.O.'s 437/40) and also of the procedure laid down in A.F.O's 348/40) for our fighters to "Home" direct of enemy shadowers. I understand

/that.....

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Homing of Bombers. (continued).

that the former system has been used in practice, but that there has as yet been no opportunity for testing the latter system.
2. It would seem a short step to develop the system which I have seen so successfully used by the Italians, and which is also used by the Germans whereby our bombers could "Home" on a reconnaissance machine in touch with an important enemy unit. Would you let me know if such a scheme is in force and whether it has been tried.
3. I would welcome any opportunity to exercise these schemes, and would suggest that the procedure in A.F.O's 348/40, or perhaps that in paragraph (2) above, might be tried on 19th December when a fleet unit will be at sea.
4. If this is agree to in principle a further signal will be made giving details.
(C. in C.H.F. 1436/16 to C. in C. Rosyth)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

FRAMLINGHAM COURT. (British, 4888 Tons) Ashore off Lismore Lighthouse. Require Tugs (Port Patrick Radio 0105/16).

ETTRICK. (British, 11279 Tons) Dragged anchor at 0100/16 and collided with FRANCONIA and KARANJA. Damage to hull, davits, and motor-launch. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 0730/16 to D.S.T) Propellor may be damaged. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1818/16).

KARANJA (British 9891 Tons) Lost one anchor by collision with ETTRICK at 0100/16. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 0730/16 and 1818/16).

FRANCONIA (British 20,175 Tons) Details of damage by collision with ETTRICK at 0100/16 (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1818/16).

BRANLEBAS. lost. F.S. BRANLEBAS sailed Dartmouth with westbound convoy at 1800/13 with orders to return to Dartmouth by 1000/15. She has not been heard of since and has not answered W/T signals. Aircraft is being sent to search. (C. in C. W.A. 0818/16).

My 0818/16 not to all addresses. Enquiries of ships in convoy which BRANLEBAS was ordered to escort and which have now arrived in harbour have failed to throw any light on the fate of BRANLEBAS. Aircraft search has proved fruitless. It is therefore regretted that she must now be considered as lost and that the loss is most probably due to heavy weather. (C. in C. W.A. 2055/16 to Adty).

EDOUARD VAN VLANDEREN. (A/S Trawler) Arrived with engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1030/16).

FURIOUS. Condition of engines and boilers renders possibility of serious break-down ever present consideration. Port Outer H.P. has stripped further blades since leaving U.K. on 16th November but not at present vibrating. Many boiler tubes now almost thickness of paper and unlikely to sustain effects of heavy concussion without bursting with dangerous consequences to boiler room personnel. Above does not indicate that ship is unfit to sail "MONSOON" but is intended as warning that possible reduction of speed to eighteen knots or below must constantly be borne in mind.
(FURIOUS 1203/14 to Admty).

/DORANDO.....

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

DORANDO.
PIETRE.

(N.C.S. Motor Drifter) While lying alongside S.S. RAMON DE LARRINAGA at 1500/15 sustained damage to stern. No damage to other vessel. N.C.S. Vessel SEAWORTHY but marking water in heavy weather. Request A.S. Rosyth may arrange survey.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1237/16 to Adty).

SKEENA.

Details of defects. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1316/16 to Adty). Consider ship unable to steam more than 10 knots (Capt. D. Greenock 1816/16 to Adty).

EMPIRE ELK.

ENGLISHMAN assisting SUPERMAN to tow (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1330/16).

SHIKARI.

Am returning Londonderry with serious defects in lubricating system.
(SHIKARI 1744/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

KRONPRINSESSEN.
(Swedish. 3746 Tons)

SERINGA.
(British 4729 Tons)

Swedish KRONPRINSESSEN and British ship SERINGA in collision Belfast Lough about 1400 today. Former holed amidships but no immediate danger. Latter bows damaged but expected dock here tonight. No casualties amongst crews reported.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1830/16 to Adty).

My 1830/16 and 1130/17 Swedish KRONPRINSESSAN MARGARETA docked safely 1600 today.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1800/17 to Adty).

GOLIATH.
(Rescue Tug)

Immobile with boiler defects until P.M. 18th. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2331/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated positions 0900/16. (D.T.D. 1135/16 to C.in C. H.F.)

F.S.62. Postponed 24 hours, weather. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1157/16).

F.S.61. 66 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0948/16).

F.N. F.N.Convoys will in future leave Southend at 0830. (C.in C. Rosyth 0939/16)

H.X.94. Route. (D.T.D. 1024/16) Meet 17 ships. (C.in C. W.A. 1116/16 to SIAIKARI, SKATE, SCIMITAR, ARABIS, MALLOW). List and distributions. (C.in C. W.A. 1516/16).

W.N.54. List. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1057/16).

B.H.X.98. List. (Navy Control, Bermuda, 1201/16).

B.H.X.97. Left. Ocean escort COMORIN, returning Halifax. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1203/16).

W.N.55.)
W.N.56.) Retard sailing 25 hours, weather. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1221/16).

E.N.42. Amending his 1650/15. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1223/16).

E.N.42.)
E.N.43.) Each postponed 24 hours due to W.N.55 and 56 postponements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1225/16)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

H.X.93. Situation at noon. ACTIVE, ANTELOPE with top mast carried away and LADY MADELINE with 6 ships 57.54 N., 11.11 W. HEATHER with 11 ships believed to be 20 miles to N.W. and is being searched for by ACHATES. NORWICH CITY standing by 1 ship with damaged steering gear, position unknown. PICOTEE and remainder of convoy position unknown. Weather. (ACTIVE, 1230/16).

H.X.95. Time of arrival at R/V to be delayed 24 hours to 0900 G.M.T./23. (D.T.D. to AUSONIA 1351/16).

H.X.96. Route. Escort RANPURA, returns to Halifax. (D.T.D. 1353/16, to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X.97. Route. C.O.A.C. Halifax requested to signal route west of 35° W and time of sailing direct to WORCESTERSHIRE. (D.T.D. 1356/16).

O.B.260. Sailed 1310/16, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O.Liverpool 1423/16). List and destinations. (1424/16).

S.L.57S. 10 ships unescorted. Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1446/16, 2033/16 to AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS).

F.S.61. List. H.M.T's STELLA, LEONIS and KINGSTON OLIVINE. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1602/16).

S.C.16. My 1114/15. ROYAL SOVEREIGN sailed p.m./16 to contact S.C.16. Route. (R.A.3.B.S. 2047/16).

S.L.58. Route. (D.T.D. 2059/16 to KENT.)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

S.L.57. ORARI has arrived Clyde proceed to join convoy S.L.57.
(C.in C. W.A. 0726/16 to VANQUISHER).

W.N.53. Scapa departures 1000 FLEETWOOD and ALYNBANK to escort convoy W.N.53.
(A.C.O.S. 1035/16).

S.C.15. Your 1848/12. S.C.15 not met. My p.c.s. at 1300/16 G.M.T. 053° N., 035° W., 087° S.
(CILICIA, 1310/16 to Adty).

S.C.15. Your 1310/16 to Adty. Commodore S.C.15 has been instructed by W/T to pass through R/V in Adty's 1840/12 at time and date stated.
(C.in C. W.A. 1954/16 to CILICIA).

S.L.59. Departure 1400/16/12 H.M.S. CATHAY to join and act as ocean escort to S.L.59 and thence to Greenock in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1231/14/12.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1601/16).

F.N.60. Great Yarmouth 16/12 Departure H.M.Y TARANSAY at 1630 to join F.N.60.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1637/16).

C.E.19. My 2156/15 and C.in C. W.A. 1312/16. Owing to non arrival of escorts C.E.19 postponed 24 hours.
(C.in C. Nore, 1656/16).

F.N.61. Intend sailing FITZROY tomorrow Tuesday to join F.N.61 thence to Grimsby.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1708/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

CLAN MURRAY. Remain with CLAN MURRAY until she rejoins convoy. If not under way by 1900 report situation stating whether tug is required.
(F.O.Harwich 1810/16 to SHELDRAKE)

S.L.57. Inward escort S.L.57 S, AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS, LILIAN. AMBUSCADE is Senior Officer.
(Capt: D. Greenock 1825/16).

W.N.56. Sailed CAVOTTE and PIROUETTE for W.N.56. E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0800/17.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2329/16).

O.C.Convoys, Dispersal Point. Several ships have recently been torpedoed in positions which indicate that they have left O.C.Convoys further North than is desirable and have proceeded thence direct towards destinations in Portugal and on the west coast of Spain. The attention of Commodores and Masters is to be called to Admiralty Message 1746/3/8 and they are to be informed of the sinkings referred to above.
(D.T.D. 2352/16).

W.S.5.A. Your 2250/6. (para.8.) and my 1753/11 Intend to sail NAIAD for Clyde p.m./16 if a second cruiser is not required for this operation intend that NAIAD should be taken in hand as early as practicable for outstanding defects.
(C.in C. H.F. 1448/16, to Adty).

Sail at 1800/16 and proceed to Avonmouth Escort RANGITIKI thence to R/V with convoy W.S.5.A. slow (position) at 1700/18. KIPLING thence proceed to Liverpool to fuel and await orders. If RANGITIKI cannot make R/V in position (A) KIPLING is to escort her to R/V with W.S.5.A. slow in position (B) at 0930/19. KIPLING then proceed to Lough Foyle to fuel and await orders.
(C.in C. W.A. 1500/16 to KIPLING).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

OREGON.

Your 1724/9 and N.A. Madrid 1245/14. OREGON should be diverted in accordance my 1225/11 for repatriation of Vichy element.
(Hd. of M., 1125/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CAPITAINE ST. MARTIN.

Arrival 14/12. French steamer CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN from Casablanca.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1900/15 recd. 1345/16)

Admiral D'Harcourt.

Following received Consul General Tangier (begins) While speaking to (? Elias) Consul Casablanca Admiral D'Harcourt (Casablanca) stated he was not anti British but like Weygand pro French. He further said French Authorities had been greatly annoyed by British action recently taken to stop French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET. There was also considerable resentment because certain trawlers from Saint Pierre had been taken to Gibraltar. No T.R.R. 15/12 (ends). This further confirms attitude of Admiral D'Harcourt as described in N.A.Lisbon's despatch to D.N.I. 19/11.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1706/16 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

Azores Submarine Patrol.

TRIDENT estimated in vicinity Lands End at 0100 G.M.T. 19/12 proceeds (route) to relieve CACHALOT on patrol in accordance with Admiralty letter M.022797/40 of 30/11.
(S.2. 1003/16 to CACHALOT, TRIDENT).

Azores. Oiling of Destroyers.

Consider it impracticable to oil destroyer off Azores in winter months.
(ASPHODEL 1181/16 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ASPHODEL and CALENDULA proceeded from Ponta Delgada 1930 G.M.T. 16/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1840/16).

A.M.C. for Azores.

My 2146/30/10 para.5, my 0210/15, and F.O.C.N.A. 1218/16. Western Patrol. After CIRCASSIA leaves patrol in Area G.3. on 17/12 it will be unnecessary to maintain an A.M.C. patrol in the vicinity of the Azores. A.M.Cs. returning to Western Patrol could therefore be employed on the more direct trade routes. It is requested that an anti-clockwise patrol should be established by MARSDALE in Area P.3., Q.3., and R.3, and a clockwise patrol by CAMITO in Areas Q.1., R.1., and S.1. (D. O.D. (F) 1538/16 to F.O.C.N.P.)

BERWICK Azores.

Request you will sail BERWICK as soon as practicable tomorrow 17/12 for Azores patrol issuing orders for her patrol and information as to submarine patrol. (D.O.D.(F) 2215/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DERBYSHIRE.

Intend to sail DERBYSHIRE for Patrol F.2. at 1800 today. (F.O.C.N.A. 1218/16 to V.A.N.P.)

RESOLUTION VINDICTIVE.

Gibraltar arrival 16/12 1100 RESOLUTION VINDICTIVE, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1232/16).

German A/C. Palma.

At least 12 German Heinkel bombers passed over here today at 1330 proceeding in South East direction. (Palma 1550/16).

Malaga Recon. by A/C.

Daily Summary Operations. One London airborne 0100 G.M.T. to carry out recco. in vicinity of Malaga. Information was received to effect that Italian warship would be loading three tons of silver at Malaga night of 15/16th. Pilot saw alongside pilot vessel off Malaga large swirl as of submarine. Did not bomb as swirl in territorial waters.

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Malaga Reconn. by A/C. (Contd.)

Aircraft remained in vicinity until 0630 G.M.T. Nothing further seen.
(200 Group 1710/16 to Air Ministry).

Malaga Reconn. VELOX.

Following received from Consul Malaga at 2355/15 "some 300 tons silver will be transhipped tonight Sunday from pilot boat to Italian warship off Malaga". VELOX and aircraft were sent to investigate forthwith. H.M. Ship sent ordered patrol of (? 15) Alboran bombing aircraft till noon December 17th. VELOX returned to Straits patrol at 0900/16 nothing to report. Aircraft reported at 0300/16 sighted motor boat in position 209 Malaga six, also considerable swirl in water as if submarine had just dived. Motor boat having tried to shine a light on aircraft made off in direction of Malaga. Aircraft at 1630/16 also reported having seen another destroyer in addition to VELOX in vicinity. This vessel had all lights burning and is considered to be probably Spanish as a Spanish minelayer of JUPITER Class passed through Straits westbound from that direction at 1040/16. Consul Malaga is being asked elaboration.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1720/16 to Adty).

Tangier Garrison. (R.2.)

One Battalion of Spanish infantry arrived here yesterday another arrive today and a third is reported to be arriving tomorrow, to replace Moorish troops who have been transferred from Tangier to Larache and Melusa. Estimated that this garrison will be between three and four thousand strong, representing a slight reduction. Spanish not Moorish troops are to be used.
(Consul Gen., Tangier, T.H.I. 1840/16).

Enemy Convoy. Bordeaux. Lisbon.

Reliably reported Germans are organising in Bordeaux a large convoy which will proceed strongly escorted to Lisbon. Convoy will travel by day only presumably to keep within territorial waters without risk of going ashore. Full report by bag.
(Consul.Gen. Lisbon, 1927/16 to M.E.W. repeated Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ESPERANCE BAY. Arrived 0930/16. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1103N/16)

Tanker. Your 1434/14 (tanker sighted by SUTLES) suggest vessel may have been EUROFELD, sailed Las Palmas 3/9 and not since located. (D.D.I.C. 1115/16 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

American Neutrality Zone. Until further notice no neutral ship to be stopped within American neutrality zone except on receipt of definite orders. This includes all French ships. (R.A.S.A.D. 1134/16 to S.A.D.S.A.Station)

NATIA Wreckage. (British 8715 tons). OGNA (Norwegian) reports having stopped at 006° 49'N., 052° 38'W on 5/12 to examine ships life boat with NATIA, Southampton on stern. Boat was waterlogged. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1150/16).

ENTERPRISE. Departure Plate 16/12 ENTERPRISE for Simonstown due 27/12. (R.A.S.A.D. 1234/Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

St. Vincent. Sal. Your 1759/14 and Adty. 1953/15. Summary of information received since September (details) . Doubtful report that Italian air services are maintained with Brazil via Sal every fortnight. (C.in C. S.A. 1815/16 to Adty).

BULOLO. Sailed for Freetown with following on board for W.Africa. (Military details) (W.O. to G.O.C., W.A. 1540/16).

ELSWICK PARK. Due Freetown 12/12 (from Milford Haven 22/11) has not arrived (S.O.(I) Freetown 0948/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

FURIOUS Hurricanes.

For your information. 27 of the Hurricanes transported by FURIOUS on last trip were in action by December 12th. (D.N.A.D. 1825/16 to FURIOUS).

Enemy Intelligence.

For Spears Mission. Following received from French Mission, Accra. Usual reliable source reports Army details. Navy. Richelieu 2 cruisers 3 destroyers 4 submarines seen Dakar 6/12. Air. Number of planes A.O.F. approx. 200. Sunken aeroplane storage tanks constructed Thmatferd, cylinders Kaolack Dakar General. 20 Officers and N.C.O's attempted to desert to Gambia 3/12 but prevented by road block. Arrested and taken to Dakar. As consequence military and naval patrolling increased. Reliably informed Cayla replaced by Anet.
(20 M.M. Brazzaville 1430/16 to W.O.)

Polish Volunteers.

General Ismay for Spears Mission, London, re 28 Poles 10 of which are Jews not renewing their contracts and wishing to join Polish Army or Palestine Legion, request instructions.
(20 M.M. Duala 1725/16 to W.A.)

East Indies.

SHROPSHIRE, DEVONSHIRE, W.S.4.B.

SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE escorting convoy W.S.4.B. sailed E.T.A. position W.(date) E.T. A. Suez (date).
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0703/16 to P.S.T.O. Suez).

ANTENOR.

To leave Colombo 0400Z/17 and proceed to 005° N., 092° E and then patrol between that position and 002° N., 080° E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0710Z/16 to ANTENOR)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Wreckage. Three lifeboats marked "Mugomedom" and 1 tin of Cow and Gate food found in 7° 23.5'N., 09° 47.5 E on 10/12. (C.in C. E.I. 1010Z/16).

CORNWALL. To leave Aden 19/12 and proceed to Simonstown. (C.in C. E.I. 1228Z/16 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

Q Distress Signal. Following from SHILLONG begins, my position 002 35'N., 075 25'E. Following Q distress signal received 1520 G.M.T. position 000 02'S., Strength of signal 2 647 broke off no further information received. T.O.O. 1715/16 G.M.T. ends. (C.in C. E.I. 1856Z/16 to E.I.Sqdn.)

My 1856/16. Following dispositions are being made.
(a) HOBART in approx. position 007° 20'N., 074° 45' at 2000/16 towards position 000° 070' with despatch.
(b) CAPETOWN in approx. position 004° 45' N., 064° 25' at 2015/16 towards position 000° 067' at 18 knots.
(c) RANCHI arrives Mahe Seychelles to refuel within the next 12 hours and then proceeding eastwards along trade route at 17 knots.
(d) WESTRALIA will R/V with Oiler APPLELEAF in position 002° 15'N., 075° 45' at 0330/18 and escort her to Addu Atoll Maldive Islands arriving about 0630/19 December.
(e) Oiler APPLELEAF leaving Colombo at 2330/16 for R/V.
(ii) All times are G.M.T.
(iii) H.M. Ships in para. 1 are to decode signal addressed Force V.
(C.in C. E.I. 2313/16).

Cables. Middle East combined Signal Board letter CRME/944/17/10 of 5/12/40. Observations. Not considered proposal to appoint a Commander for the control of cables only is justified.
(C.in C. E.I. to C.in C. Med. et., 1114/Z/16).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CORNWALLIS, INVESTIGATOR, FALMOUTH, SEABELLE, PARVATI, RATNAGIRI.

F.O.C.R.I.N. 0429/11 and S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1520/14. (1) Concur change over of CORNWALLIS and INVESTIGATOR as proposed by F.O.C.R.I.N. S.N.O. Persian Gulf is requested to sail CORNWALLIS accordingly. (2) As FALMOUTH's A/S spares are now at Bombay, intend FALMOUTH to dock and repair before SEABELLE docks. In order that strength of Persian Gulf Division shall not fail below these ships intend PARVATI ro RATNAGIRI, whichever ready for service first to proceed to Persian Gulf temporarily until relieved by INVESTIGATOR (date). (3) S.N.O. Persian Gulf requested to sail FALMOUTH for Bombay on arrival in Gulf of PARVATI or RATNAGIRI (date). SEABELLE to proceed to Bombay on return of FALMOUTH.
(C.in C. E.I. 0608Z/16 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MANTAI MARU.

S.O.(I) Bombay 0604/22/11 to Arfar regarding Cargo from German ship RHEINLAND shipped in Japanese ship MANTAI MARU to Basrah for Aleppo. MANTAI MARU passed Singapore 14/12 for Basrah. (2) Reference para. 2 (c) of a.m.2100/13/11 should vessel be sent in to British port in view of enemy origin of cargo (3) Cargo reported to consist of earthenware and cotton goods.
(C.in C. E.I. 1052Z/16 to Adty).

**CRICKET
APPLELEAF
PARRAMATTA.**

CRICKET escorted by Oiler APPLELEAF will sail from Colombo at 1130Z/17 for Cochin where CRICKET will refuel from APPLELEAF. The two ships will then proceed to Bombay. PARRAMATTA will escort CRICKET to Aden via Masirah where PARRAMATTA will supply fuel and water to CRICKET. Estimated requirements. S.N.O. Red Sea requested state if delay in arrival of PARRAMATTA at Aden can be accepted. No other ship available for escort of CRICKET as APPLELEAF required for another operation.
(C.in C. E.I. 1148Z/16 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Port Facilities, Aden.

Request N.O.I.C. Rangoon will report dimensions and weights of craft referred to by C.in C. E.I. in his 0718/12 bearing in mind that they would presumably require to be shipped to Aden in ships able to lift them with their own gear.
(D. of S.T. 1931/16 to C.in C. E.I.)

Boom D.V's.

Admty. 1838/2 and my 0646/5. Owing to repairs to B.D.V. BARNET and difficulties regarding crew for B.D.V. BARRETTE sailing of these vessels have been delayed.
(C.in C. E.I. 1152Z/16 to C.in C. Med. etc.

China.

Free French Singapore.

From De Schompre for General De Gaulle. Begins Number thirty organisation of my office at Singapore completed (details) Possible further increase due to expansion of propaganda activities in liaison with Far Eastern Bureau of British Ministry of Information. Ends.
(C.in C. China 0945Z/16 to Adty).

Air Mission to Chinese Government.

Consideration given to despatch of air mission to Chinese Government. We cannot spare personnel for mission nor aircraft for Chinese. On the other hand we are prepared to accept your recommendation in the F.E.61 12/12 provided you or India can find suitable officer.
(Air Min. 1730/16 to C.in C. Far East).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Dodecanese. — Reply from Cs-in-C. to Chief of Staffs No. 31. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 0833/16) See Mediterranean Vol.

M.W. 5A. — Convoy M.W. 5A. Following British ships, LANARKSHIRE and WAIWERA sailed 2100 B/16 due seaward end of Malta Channel (b) 1300/19. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 2205/16).

Operation M.C.2. — Fuelling programme. (C.in C. Med., 1121/16).

Spain. — Bi-Weekly Report. German troop movements Bordeaux-Hendaye. Spanish actions in Tangier. (Madrid, 2015/16).

U.S.7. — Convoy U.S. 7 arrived Suez p.m./14. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 1008/16).

Attacks on Bardia, Tobruk, etc. — Operational Summary No. 189, up to 1200/16.
Egypt. My A.864 15/12.
Para. 2. 11 Wellingtons dropped over 26000 lbs of bombs on Bardia night 14/15 Dec. starting very large oil fire near Stores Buildings which was visibile at distance of 60 miles. Night 14/15 Dec. 12 Blenheims operating independently bombed landing grounds at Bomba, Gazala, El Gubbi, Tobruk, El Adem, Gambut and Menastir and Sollum Barracks. Day 15/12. 7 Blenheims operating independently attacked landing grounds at Appollonia Bomba, Tmimi, Gazalla and El Adem. 4 Blenheims with Fighter escort attacked Tobruk, bombs falling beyond target to fault in release gear caused by frost. Hurricanes made offensive patrols westward to Tobruk. Hurricanes and Gladiators with F.A.A. Gladiators patrolled over our advanced forces. Night 15/16/12. 36 aircraft including Bombays Blenheims, Wellingtons and F.A.A. aircraft maintained sustained attacks on Bardia throughout night to force enemy to evacuate the town. Direct hits by Wellingtons on Barracks and Stores at started large fires visible at distance of 60 miles. G.H.Q. M.E. report Halfaya evacuated by enemy 15/12, Sollum and Capuzzo still occupied. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1242/15).

/ Malta Air Report .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report.

To 1700/16. All times G.M.T. 0738/16. Sunderland reconnaissance western portion Ionian Sea for enemy naval units. Nil report. Air operations planned for tonight cancelled due to weather conditions. No enemy air activity over Malta. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/16).

Sollum and Capuzzo captured.

We have captured Sollum and Fort Capuzzo. T.O.O. 2001/16. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria. 2010/16).

Enemy Intelligence.

Roumanian Military Attache (most reliable) tells me that German Assistant Military Attache visited him two successive days saying he had received two urgent telegrams from his Military Attache in Berlin, asking for following information:
1. From which air bases in Greece are British Air Force operating.
2. Have British troops disembarked Greece, if so at what port.
Roumanian M.A. truthfully replied he did not know.
(M.A. Ankara, No T.O.O./16 to Brit. M.M., Athens).

Leros Raid 26/11.

Report from Turkish secret source; damage in Leros Air Raid 22/11. (query 26/11)
Naval base store burnt with contents. Military club and ordnance offices completely destroyed by two bombs. Air Force W/T destroyed. Coast defence guns damaged. Italians claim seven of our aircraft brought down; source states correct one only; Pilot wounded but Italiuns killed him.
(Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1748/16).
Note. by N.I.D.
This refers to attack by 15 Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS on 26/11. Little information has been received previously concerning the damage caused.

Dodecanese.

Your 2214/13, (Islands for Turkey) confirmed name of islands mentioned in my 1651/11 were Rhodes and Kos. Athens and Ankara being informed.
(C.in C. Med., 2011/16 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

REVENGE.
T.C.8.

Your 2240/6 REVENGE and T.C. 8 sailed 1300/16 G.M.T. routed through (particulars) expect to reach position (a) (particulars) 22/12 (R.A.3.B. S 1001/16 to Admty). Departures 16/12 ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE local escort REVENGE ocean escort T.C.8. (S.O(I) Halifax 1235/16 to Admty).

RIPLEY.
ROXBOROUGH.

Sailed for U.K. 1530/16 G.M.T. Routed as in E. 926/31 from R.A.3. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1259/16 to R.A.3 for Capt (D).

HERCOGS JAGABS.

Your 1633/14. If Latvian HERCOGS JAGABS sails she is not to be interfered with (Hd of M. 2351/16 to C. in C. A. & W.I.).

ST. CROIX.

Sailed for Halifax 1600/16 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. ST John's N.F. 1503/16).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Departure 16/12 cover for HX and SC convoys (S.O. (I) Halifax 2005/16 to Admty).

DESPATCH.

Left Bermuda accordance my 2232/13 E.T.A. Kingston 0700R/20. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1503/16).

LEOPOLDVILLE.

Admty. 1823/12. Will LEOPOLDVILLE be available to take 200 troops on return voyage to U.K. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1601/16).

Neutral Ships.
American Zone.

Until further notice no neutral ship is to be stopped within American Neutral zone except upon express orders from the Admiralty or C. in C.A.W.I. Neutral for this purpose includes French Ships and my 1251/23/11 is modified accordingly. Limits of neutral zone as affecting America and West Indies Station were defined by declaration of Panama 1939. Commanding Officers must not be influenced by these limits when investigating ship's flying neutral colours who are suspected of being disguised enemy ships. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2202/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

BATHURST.
Minesweepers.

Your 0121/15. Arrangements will be made accordingly (A.C.N.B. 05152/16 to Admty).

New Zealand.

Troop
Transport.

D.S.T's 1458/15. Re use of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA in same convoy as QUEEN MARY. Reluctant (unless necessary) to take AWATEA off Vancouver run. Capacity of AWATEA. Dates of embarkation and sailing. (N.Z.N.B. to A.C.N.B., 1019/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SPEZIA — Arrival 14/12. (Valencia 0115/16)

ATLAS — Departure 13/12 for Marseilles. (Valencia, 0115/16).

MARIA LOUISA — (Bulgarian ship) loading with tobacco 14/12 for Germany via Roumania. Sailing date not yet known. (Consul, Samsun, 1130/16).

ARKADIA } LARISSA } — Left in ballast for Russia. (Galatz, 1142/16)

TISZA — Passed down river for Istanbul. (Galatz, 1142/16)

BADEN — Left Teneriffe 0400/16. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1225/16)

RIO GRANDE, } IDARWALD } — Your 1551/15. Should RIO JRANDE read IDARWALD? (D.D.I.C. to C.in C. S.A., 1302/16).

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER. — My 0754/10. Cancel reference to ANNELIESE ESSBERGER (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1033/16). Reported sale to Japanese.

SPICA. — Now discharging her cargo of pyrites at Ayamonte, where she has been since October, 1939. (D.S. 468).

TINOS. — Discharging a quantity of manganese ore temporarily at Valencia before docking. (D.S. 468).

BELLONA — Arrived 14/12. (Valencia 2035/16).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CONTE DI SAVOIA } SATURNIA } OCEANIA } NEPTUNIA } VULCANIA } — B.[illegible] report states recently lying at Trieste in the Ports Duca d'Aosta close to the shipbuilding yard (D.S. 468).

CELENO — Arrived from Batoum, cargo of 8,000 tons gas oil. (Varna, 1030/16).

MAURO CROCE — Left for Genoa 13/12. (Barcelona, 1249/16).

DERNA. — Left for Genoa 14/12. (Barcelona 1249/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CHARI
(torpedoed 13/12)

Has arrived Clyde. Proceed to Belfast. (C.in C. W.A. 0729/16 to ELLESMERE and STELLA POLARIS).

MACEDONIER
(torpedoed 12/12)

Belgian, 5227 tons. In Convoy H.X.92, sunk by torpedo 1 mile W. of St. Kilda 57.52 N., 8.42 W. at 0130/12. Eight officers and 29 men landed at Fleetwood, 4 of crew missing (D.S. 468/16/12).

VICTORIA CITY)
D'ARLON)
(torpedoed 2/12)

In Convoy H.X.90, torpedoed on 2/12, are now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 468/16/12).

TOWA
(torpedoed 11/12)

Dutch, in Convoy H.X.92, torpedoed 11/12, is now presumed to have sunk. Master and 16 survivors have been landed. (D.S. 468/16/12).

NEWTON PINE
(escaped 13/12)

See S/M's attacked.

ROTORUA
(sunk 11/12)

Sinking of ROTORUA (HX 92) by U-boat at 1315/11 in position 56° 56'N. 11° 08' W. Senior officer of escort (VETERAN) states ROTORUA (Commodore) was 125 miles ahead of expected position but local escort were not aware of this until ship was torpedoed. Signalmen (Ex ROTORUA state all W/T messages from Commodore were passed by lamp to CARDITA for transmission by short wave. A.M./10 signal made giving R/V's for local escort at 0400 and 0845 on 11/12.
0930/11 signal made giving Commodore's position course and speed. Neither of these signals ever reached local escort.
Naval Control, Greenock, asked to investigate this matter with Master of CARDITA. Also allegation that plain language signal was made on same wave at about 0930/11.
Further evidence of survivors gives following description of attack. (Abridged).
1315/11 ships in company (list). ROTORUA torpedoed starboard side and sank in 20 minutes. Signals made indicating side of attack and ordering convoy to scatter. 5 minutes after attack U-boat surfaced on port quarter among boats and her C.O. took cinematograph of sinking ship whilst others made off. After 10 minutes U-boat dived. 10 minutes later surfaced again and CARDITA opened fire and claimed one direct hit producing oil and smoke. No further attack on convoy. (Details of survivors' rescue) (Capt. D., Liverpool, 1805/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

1345. 54.53 N., 05.54 W. (C.in C. W.A., 1712/16).

0752. Bergen area, position indefinite (D.S. 468).

0349. About 60° N., 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 468).

1850. 59.50 N., 2.50 E., approx. position (D.S. 469).

1223. D.F., probable U/B 57.40 N. to 58.20 N., 15° - 17° W. (D.D.I.C. 1312/16).

1223. 58.20 N., 17° W. approx position (D.S. 469).

1547. 59°N., 22 - 23° W., indefinite position (D.S. 469).

1516)
1620)
1750) 54.30 N., to 56° N., 16° - 19° W., indefinite positions of 3 Italian U/B's. (D.S. 469).

1620. 48.40 N., 12.20 W., approx. position of Italian U/B (D.S. 469).

0121. Westward of Brest, indefinite position of German U/B (D.S. 469).

Dutch intelligence Curacao reports first officer F.H. BEDFORD J.R. sighted conning tower of submarine in position 21 miles 030 degrees from Aruba at 1730/11. Other members of crew saw wake. Not reported to N.C.S.O. S.N.O. Curacao grades C.3. Ship sailed Aruba 12/12 for New York.
(S.O.I. Kingston 1000/16 to C.in C. A. and W.I.).

Submarines Reported.

TARTAR pass to SEVERN. Following received from Larne examination steamer. S/M periscope also top part of conning tower roughly two cables Eastwards Hunter Rock Buoy appeared bound to S.E. time of origin 1345/16, (ends) BRITISH HONDURAS from Larne and 4 A/S trawlers from Belfast investigating. (C.in C. W.A., 1520/16 to TARTAR).

/ Estimated U-boat dispositions..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

Submarines Reported.
Italian.
1 about 300 miles W. or W.N.W. of Madeira.
1 Near Azores.
2 in N.W. Approaches one of which may be about 54° N. 20° W.
1 may be about 42° N. 15° W. bound for Azores.
German.
1 was about 650 miles S.W. of Freetown on 13th. No further report.
1 possibly Italian S.W. of Dakar.
1 may arrive Lorient to-day.
1 may be about 47° 40'N, 8° W. bound for Lorient.
1 North of 55° N. east of 12° W.
1 about 58° 30' N. 17° W.
1 north of 58° N. and west of 22° W.
1 about 60° N. 20° W.
1 entering Bergen.
(D.D.I.C. 1313/16).

Submarines Attacked.

1825/14.

My 1111/15. At 1825/14 HYPERION with NEWCOMB in company obtained contact in position 032° 03' N. 025° 56' E. and attacked firing one pattern. Shortly afterwards U-Boat surfaced.
Both ships opened fire and U-Boat surrendered. U-Boat sank before boats reached her.
(C.in C. Med., 1721/16 to Admty.)

By NEWTON PINE 2300/13.

Position 2200 G.M.T./13, 8.16 N., 15.25 W. Torpedo attack avoided, followed up by a severe engagement with gunfire. Anticipate submarine damaged after 30 minutes action. No casualties, ship is not damaged. (NEWTON PINE, via Freetown W/T 2230/16 to C.in C. S.A.)
Further report see 18/12.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Force K.

Force K - FORMIDABLE (aircraft carrier) NORFOLK (cruiser) and four destroyers - is to sail from Scapa to rendezvous to the westward with Convoy W.S. 5 A.

M.T.B. Sweep

Weather permitting, Motor torpedo boats are to operate between Ostend and Hook of Holland. Any vessel met east of 2° 15' E may be attacked without challenge.

British Air Activity

L'Orient
Wilhelmshaven
Bordeaux

Air attacks to be made night of 16/17 on Wilhelmshaven, and on L'Orient and Bordeaux.

Enemy Air Activity

SS. MENTOR

Greek SS MENTOR, 3050 tons, has been attacked in 52° 51' N., 14° 17' W. (Channel Approach)

Mining

Thames & Medway

Five small merchant vessels have been sunk by mines in Thames off Southend. Thames and Medway have been closed.

ACHERON

ACHERON (destroyer) has been sunk at 0640 by an explosion off the Needles (Isle of Wight) while carrying out trials.

Stadlandet (Norway)

SUNFISH (submarine) states that during her patrol (1/12- 7/12) there were no indications of mines off Stadlandet.

Minelaying

ADVENTURE is leaving Milford Haven to lay mines. Operation ZME 7.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping and Convoys

H.X. 93. H.X. 93 (Halifax homeward) is entering North Channel at 1630.

E.N. 42. E.N. 42. (East Coast to West, North about) left Methil (Forth) at 10 p.m.- 7 ships with escort of 1 destroyer, 1 anti-aircraft ship, 1 A/S yacht, 2 armed trawlers.

Motor vessels, six, left the Needles for Dartmouth, escorted by two A/S Trawlers.

Foreign Stations.

Vichy French

Traffic. Dakar A regular steam boat service has been established between Marseilles and Dakar.

Gibraltar French sloop passed Giblaltar escorting ship West to East and returned escorting three ships East to West.

Mediterranean

Operation M.C. 2. It has been decided that Convoy M.G. 1. will be run to Gibraltar. The MALAYA is to accompany it to join Force H (see North Atlantic)

Operation M.C. 3. The C. in C., (WARSPITE flag) 1st Division 1st Battle Squadron, H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS, 3rd Cruiser Squadron (GLOUCESTER flag) and destroyers, are due to leave Alexandria Dec. 16th to meet 7th C.S. (ORION flag) to carry out operation M.C. 3. on night of 18/19th as follows (a) 7th C.S. to raid into Straits of Otranto as far as line Bari- Durazzo (by battleships to bombard Valona)

MOST SECRET

17.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Force H.

Force H (RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 destroyers) has been ordered to return to Gibraltar (Note- Force H left Gibraltar on 14/12 to patrol off the Azores)

BERWICK (cruiser) has left Gibraltar for Azores patrol.

Submarines

The submarines UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE ordered on 14/12/40 to patrol in Bay of Biscay have been ordered to continue their passage to Gibraltar.

ORANGELEAF

The tanker ORANGELEAF (on her was to join Force H.) has been ordered to return to Gibraltar. The VELOX (destroyer) is to meet and escort her.

South Atlantic

NEPTUNE

NEPTUNE (flag of F.O.C. Force H) has arrived at Freetown

French Foreign Legion

The C. in C., South Atlantic has asked for confirmation of arrangements to send French Legion to Freetown for transhipment and convoy.

U-Boat Attack on SS NEWTON PINE

The British SS NEWTON PINE reports being attacked by U-Boat on Dec 13/2200 G.M.T. in 8° 16' N., 15° 25' W. Torpedo was avoided and a gunfire action lasting 30 minutes followed. Master considers the submarine was damaged.

MOST SECRET

17.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Raider

There is no further indication of raider since SS SHILLONG's distress signal off the Maldives on Dec. 16. The Cruisers Hobart and Capetown are off the Maldives giving cover to shipping. The cruiser DAUNTLESS is to patrol West of Actun Head (Sumatra)

America & West Indies

Merchant Vessels Armament

Allied ships (Norwegian and Greek) are reluctant to sail without armament. C. in C., requests early information as to shipment of Hotchkiss machine guns to Bermuda.

Australia

Raider
TRIASTER
VINNI
TRIONA

Nothing further has been heard of the ships TRIASTER, VINNI and TRIONA which were due at Nauru, (Gilbert Islands, British Mandate) on Dec. 7th and 8th and were supposed to have been captured by the raider which attacked Nauru on Dec 8th.

U-Boat Campaign

ROTORUA

With regard to the sinking of British SS ROTORUA, 10890 tons, in convoy H.X. 92 (Halifax homeward) on Dec 11th at 1315 in 58° 56' N., 11° 8' W., the senior officer of escort in VETERAN (destroyer) states that the ROTORUA was 125 miles ahead of her expected position and that the local escort was not aware of this till the report came in of her being torpedoed. The signalmen rescued from ROTORUA state that all signals from Commodore of Convoy were passed to British SS CARDITA, that the signal giving a rendezvous for local escort was passed on Dec 11 at 0400 and 0800. Neither of these signals reached the escort.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign-Contd.

It is estimated that some 15 U-Boats are at sea. viz 8 German and 7 Italian The areas of operation are approximately as follows:-

Azores & Madeira	- German	2 Italian
Cape Verde	2 (No further report)	
West of Spain (bound for Azores)		1 or 2
British Isles West & Northwest	3	4
Bay, arriving L'Orient	1	
Shetlands (Outward)	1	
North (60°W 20°W)	1	
	8	7 or 8

4

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Methil. Your 1007/18. Following is List of Standing Operational Orders now in force in Methil Sub-Command.(N.O.I.C. Methil 1141/17 to Adty.)

Iceland. Adty. 2159/16. As it is understood that timely arrival of Fish Cargo in U.K. is desirable, intend to continue routeing as in last paragraph of my 1732/18. (F.O. Iceland 1221/17 to Adty.)

A.M.C's. The following steps to increase maximum Gun-Range and improve Fire-Control of A.M.C.'s are now in hand.(D.T.S.D.1840/17.)

Western Approaches. My 2010/1 had a torpedo bomber Striking Force been at my disposal, an excellent opportunity would have occurred this afternoon of attacking a convoy off Ile Vierge reported by Pru aircraft on return from reconnaissance.
(C. in C. W.A. 1854/17 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/17. (D.C.1154/17.) At 2330/17. (D.C. 2344/17.)

Gosport. Net Layers MINSTER and TONBRIDGE will carry out experimental lay PM/20.
(B.D.O. Gosport 1637/17 to D.B.D.)

Dungeness. A/A.Battery. Your 1220/18. Request assurance that Guns will remain at my disposal for a definite period.(H.O.F.O.R.3. 1133/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RODNEY. RESCADE, ELECTRA, ECLIPSE.	Sailed Scapa 2359/16. (A.C.O.S.0251/17.)
DIDO.	Sailed Scapa 0334 (A.C.O.S.0336/17.) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1657/17.)
Nore Command. Ships out of Action.	C. in C. Nore 0746/17 to Adty.)
WITHERINGTON WITCH.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0900/17.)
BONAVENTURE.	Weather permitting is to arrive Greenock by 1000/18 and will be required to embark Personnel mentioned in A.M. 2112/13. (C.S.15. 0944/17.) Sailed Rosyth 2230/16. R.T.A. Greenock 0500/18. (C.in C. Rosyth 2236/16.)
CURACOA.	Arrived Scapa 092/3. (A.C.O.S. 1030/17.)
RAMILLIES. FERNIE, CATTISTOCK. HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND.	Arrived Plymouth. (C. in C.W.A. 1138/17.) Destroyers sailed 1709/17 for Patrol to Portsmouth. E.T.A. Nab. 0900/18.(C.in C.WA. 1755/17) Please route Destroyers as follows.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1503/17 to C. in C.W.A.)
Force K.	S.O. Force K in FORMIDABLE, with NORFOLK and 4 Destroyers, to sail from Scapa at 1700/18 to R/V. with Convoy W.S.5.A. in 54°10' N. 25°W at about 1100/22, whence Destroyers part company and return to Scapa. Route. (C. in C.HF.1159/17.)
RODNEY.	Arrived 1430 from Scapa.(C. in C. Rosyth 1436/17.)
NAIAD.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1459/17.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Line tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1540/17.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

WILD SWAN. VANSITTART. Entered, fuelled, and sailed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1801/17.)

PEGASUS. Would berth be available for PEGASUS on return from operation SPECIMEN until she sails to repeat Operation. (D.O.D.N.1811/17 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Troop Embarkation. Arrived Greenock GLENGYLE, GLENROY, ROYAL SCOTSMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0946/17.)

P.V.3. Will be carried out tonight, starting at 2030. Tracks in 40 QZS, 15 miles either side of Smiths Knoll Light Float. (C. in C. Nore 1027/17.) My 1027. Operation P.V.3. cancelled. C. in C. Nore 1901/17.)

M.T.B. sweep of Dutch and Belgian Coasts. Weather permitting M.T.B.'s are to operate tonight Tuesday between Ostend and Hook of Holland. If conditions are considered suitable Flushing Roads should be visited. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' East may be attacked without challenge. Report time of sailing.(C. in C. Nore 1048/17 to F.O. Harwich.) Sailed M.T.B.'s 29,31,32 at 2001. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2006/17.)

Submarines.

TRIDENT. Sailed escorted by CUTTY SARK as by S.2. 1206/15. F.O.I.C. Greenock 0958/17.)

UNBEATEN. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1205/17.)

L.23. In Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.O.S. 1626/17.)

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1650/17.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/18. (VAS. 1708/17.)

RUBIS. E.T.A. Q.Z.S.162. 0913/18. (RUBIS 1915/17 to N.O.I.C. Dundee, ADVENTURE 2317/17.)
Operation completed (ADVENTURE, 2314/17.)

MOST SECRET.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Patrol by Blenheim from Dyce to Flamborough and return being flown 0845 to 1215 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0818/17.)
Being flown today. CERTO in lieu of MUGGY, STAB, BERT, SA.2, and S.A.3. (C.in C. Rosyth 0620/17.)

A/C. Homing Trials. Your 1436/16. The procedure outlined in para. 2 has not been standardised, but has been practised in low visibility. It has been estimated that aircraft can home on to one another at the maximum range of 20 miles.

2. 18 Group have agreed to carry out trials in accordance with para. 2 of your signal.

3. Two Hudsons will be available PM/19.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1113/17 to C. in C.H.F.)

Lorient, Wilhelmshaven, TIRPITZ. Repeat tonight operations detailed for 53,59,22, and 812 Sqdns., on Night 16/17. (H.Q.C.C. 1245/17 to 16 Group Thorney Island, North Coates.)

Bordeaux. 217 Squadron to repeat tonight attack on U-Boats at Bordeaux.(H.Q.C.C. 1247/17 to 15 Group, St.Eval.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MENTOR. (Greek, 3050 Tons.) Attacked by A/C. in 52° 51' N 14° 17' W. (MENTOR 1035/17.)

BANDA. (British, 1028 Tons.) Arrived Belfast 1800/16. Reports bombed and machine-gunned in 55° 28' N 6° 2' W. at 0945/16 B.S.T. by one A/C. Six near misses, slight damage, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1300/17.)

Mining.

Thames and Medway. Closed owing to mines. (Cmdre. in Charge, Sheerness, 1001/17.)

Z.M.E.7. Intend leave Milford Haven 1800/17 for operation Z.M.E.7, to lay at IX 2145 returning on completion about 2400.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMAND.

Stadlandet.

Mining. Contd.
Your 2249/14 para.1 (B). Between 1/12 and 7/12. SUNFISH extensively covered area (details) off Stadlandet. During patrol nothing seen or took place to indicate presence of enemy mines. Before another S/M patrols anxious to know (1) is minefield referred to a German field or the British declared area, (2) if German can it be established whether these mines were laid before or after SUNFISH's first attack on 5/12. (V.A.S. 1126/17 to Admty.)

C.M. Field.

Hope to complete relaying of C.M. Field on 19/12. The two mine loops are laid. Both tested and worked well.(O.C.C.M.Party RINGDOVE, 1403/17.)

More.

1 red mine detonated 0945/17 by L.L Tugs 102° No. 1. Yantlet Buoy 3 cables near inside. Very heavy explosion under electrode of short leg. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1414/17.)

Southend.
AQUEITY.
HELVEDERE.
IMVER.
MALRIX.
DESPICIENT.

M/V. AQUEITY.(Br.370 tons.) sunk at Southend 17/12. Casualties 3 dead 1 injured. S.S.HELVEDERE (Br. 869 tons) sunk at Southend 17/12. S.S.IMVER (Br. 1543 tons.) sunk at Southend 7/12. Seriously injured 1. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1641/17 to Admty.) S.S. MALRIX (Br. 703 tons.) sunk at Southend 17/12, 6 missing, believed dead, 4 injured. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2251/17.

CARRY ON sunk.

(B.B. Drifter) Mined by enemy action 17/12. 7 crew (including Skipper) missing presumed killed (Comdre. I.C. Sheerness,1718/17.)

Plymouth.

Since my 1705/8/12 one red mine detonated 210° 8½ cables Breakwater Light at 1450.(C. in C. W.A. 1815/17.)

THOMAS CONOLLY.

(Boom Working Trawler) Mined 0940/17 half mile east of No. 5 Bury charted position. (Comdre I.C. Sheerness 2150/17.)

Proposed minefield. Norwegian Coast.

Your 1331/16. Concur. Additional proposals. (C. in C. H.F. 2329/17.to Admty.)

Tyne.

Following received from LEGION begins:- Have exploded accoustic mine at 2 cables, my position 054° 57' 22" N, 001° 09' 36" W speed 30 knots. T.O.O. 1045/17 ends.(C. in C. Rosyth 2359/17 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Thames Estuary. Following mines detonated by S.A. gear 17/12. By SUNLIGHT at 1325 320° No. 3 Medway Channel buoy 1/2 mile bearing Green 30° 50 yards. Detonation was followed immediately by explosion in approximate position 285° More L V 7 cables. By DELPHINUS at 1350 175° No. 1 Yantlet buoy one cable bearing ahead 3 cables and at 1403 184° No. 1.Yantlet buoy 1/2 cable bearing green 90° 1/2 cables. At 1218 two mines were observed by DELPHINUS to explode when gear not operating 000° No. 1 Yantlet buoy 6 cables.
(Capt. M/S. 1714/17 to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich. Paddlesweepers East of Longsand Head searched 75% of area extending for 7 cables S.E. of line joining 51° 50° 7 01° 44.6' and 51° 45.1' 01° 40' 2 mines destroyed. One detonated in 51° 49.1' 01° 44.5'. One German 'W' Type mine dragged in sweep, sunk, by rifle fire. Russian type sinker recovered.(F.O.I.C. Harwich,1825/17.)

Yarmouth. Skid Drifters 17/12 using North Polarity detonated mine in 050° 8½ cables from North Pier, entrance to Yarmouth Haven. Mine was seen to drop by parachute on morning of 14/12.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1950/17 to C. in C. Nore.)

English Channel. Dangerous area due to mines exists north five miles of position 50 degs. 31' 30" North and 001 degs. 32' 00" West.(V.A.S/Ms 2016/17 to PROTEUS).

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Weser. At 0440/16 in 53° 40' N. 8° 20' E. A/C saw 3 large and 2 small ships apparently proceeding to Bremen. (H.Q.B.C. 1804/17 to Air Ministry.)

Heligoland Bight. At 0452/16 in 53° 55' N. 8° E. A/C saw 3 large and 3 small stationary ships showing no lights.
(H.Q.B.C. 1804/17 to Air Ministry.)

Off Yarmouth. Suspected E-Boat near 52° 38' N. 2° 15'E. at 2135.
(C. in C. Nore 2157/17 to LOWESTOFT.)

Western Channel Approach. A/C. reports Searchlight flashed at 1912 in 49° 9' N. 5° 30' W. Investigate.(C. in C.W.A. 2233/17 to FERMIN) (V.A.S. 0026/18 to PROTEUS.)

MOST SECRET.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ACHERON sunk.

Regret to report that ACHERON has been sunk following an explosion while carrying out high speed turning trials at 0640 today in approximate position 165°, Needles 8½ miles. Cause at present unknown.
Some Survivors have been picked up.
Further report follows.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1053/17 to Admty.)

NORWICH CITY.

(A/S. Trawler). Tug SCHELDE proceeding to your assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1807/17 to NORWICH CITY) Was in 250° Dubh Artach 5 miles at 1730 today. LADY MADELINE standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2015/17 to SCHELDE.)

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys. Estimated positions 0900/17. (D.T.D., 1158/17 to C.in C. H.F.).

F.N. 61. Left Southend with H.M.T. SAPPHIRE 27 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 0845/17, 1107/17).

H.X.97. Admty. 1356/16. Sailing 1700 G.M.T./18. Route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1004/17 to WORCESTERSHIRE).

W.N. 83. Arrived 1000/17. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1007/17).

S.C.17. Prospective date of sailing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1150/17).

O.B.O. 260. Sailed 0400/17, 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1215/17).

O.B. 263. Route. (D.T.D. 1228/17).

H.C. 48. Route. (D.T.D. 1229/17).

O.B. 259. Route to avoid U/B. (C.in C. W.A. 1502/17 to SHIKARI, SCIMITAR, SKATE, ARABIS, MALLOW).

H.X.94. List of ships not in company. (RAJPUTANA, 1653/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

F.N. 63. Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth 1729/17).

S.C.16. Date and route. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to cover to 30° W., return to Halifax. (D.T.D., 1847/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.L.59. Date and route. Escort CATHAY. (D.T.D. 1856/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.L.S. 59. Date and route. (D.T.D. 1857/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B. 263. Date and route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1900/17).

F.N. 60. Humber 17/12 departure H.M. Tug RESTIVE at 0300, to join F.N.60 Methil for onward routeing to Campbeltown. (F.O. Humber, 0944/17).

2 M.V's. Your 1031/16 and 1806/16. Arrival 2 M/V's escorted by RUBY and PEARL. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1203/17 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

6 M.V's. Intend to sail Group of 6 M/Vs escorted by PEARL and RUBY from Needles 1715 today for Dartmouth. 0815/18. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1243/17).

My 1243/17 sailed 1730 less one M/V. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1847/17).

/O.B.262 ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.12.1940. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

O.B. 262. 1100 on 20/12. (Route). (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1253/17).

F.N. 61. Great Yarmouth 17/12 Departure H.M.Y. TARANSAY at 1335 to join F.N.61 at Sheringham Light Buoy at 0630/18. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1430/17).

H.X.93. Am not in touch with HEATHER. Request she be instructed to rendezvous with H.X.93 who should enter by North Channel about 1630 today as she will be required to escort Liverpool section. (ACTIVE 1045/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X.93. Rendezvous with H.X.93 expected to enter north Channel at 1630 today Tuesday you will be required to escort Liverpool Section. (C.in C. W.A. 1514/17 to HEATHER).

H.X.93. R/V for H.M.S. ROSEMARY with H.X.93 E. 0700/18 in 053° 46' N. 005° 08' W. (C.in C. W.A., 1532/17 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead).

RICHMOND CASTLE. RICHMOND CASTLE sailing 0200/18 for Cape Town. Speed of advance 15 knots. (Route).

O.B. 259. Lost contact with O.B. 259 position, intend return Londonderry. (NORTHERN DAWN, 1645/17).

H.X.94. Following ships are not in company with H.X.94:- WINDFLOWER, PENDEEN SINE WOENSDRECHT last seen after convoy hove to in latitude 055 degs. 40' Longitude. AGRA, TRILLIUM, LA PAMPA, OAKMAN. (RAJPUTANA 1663/17 to C.in C.W.A.) .

W.N. 54. 1243, CURACOA sailed to cover Convoy W.N.54. (A.C.O.S. 1701/17).

SATURNUS My 1054/18 (Re Swedish Ship SATURNUS) Immediate action and reply is requested. (N.A. Stockholm 1747/17 to Admty.)

8 M.V's. Intend sailing at 1645/18 8 M/V's including two large tankers for Hartland Gap. Falmouth state they cannot take one of the tankers which is Diesel driven. Request necessary escort may be arranged. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1913/17 to C.in C.W.A.)

6 M.V's. Intend sailing at 1730/18 6 M/Vs all loaded. Expected time of arrival Needles 0845/19. Request escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1916/17).

W.N. 54. Scapa arrival 2150 CURACOA from convoy W.N.54. (A.C.O.S. 2158/17).

/ F.N. 42. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.12.1940. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

E.N. 42. 2200/17 H.M.T's STELLA CAPELLA, HORNPIPE. Additional escorts LONDONDERRY, TIERCEL, ALYNBANK. 7 ships. 1 for Clyde. (N.O.S.O. Methil 2230/17).

W.N. 54. Following received at Aberdeen W/T from HUGH WALPOLE:- W.N.54 passing Rattray Head. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2020/17).

C.W. 20. Provided escorts arrive Sheerness in time, intend to sail CW 20 from Southend at 1000/21. Timetable.
M.L's detailed are to be towed between Sheerness and North Goodwin, and whilst in tow engines and dynamos are not to be used. Number of M/V's in convoy 15.
(C.in C. Nore 2112/17).

F.N. 62. F.N. 62 cancelled.
VANITY and WESTMINSTER are to proceed to Rosyth independently at 0830/8. Speed not to exceed 12 knots unless attacked by aircraft until after passing Shipwash Light Vessel, thence with moderate despatch. Fighter protection will be asked for. (C.in C. Nore 2130/17).

C.in C. Nore's 2130/17.
F.N.62 will commence from 62 D buoy, VANITY and WESTMINSTER are to arrive there at 1900/18 ships from Humber to be sailed accordingly. 20 buoy 0500/19 and 20 R buoy 0600/19 for ships from Tees and Tyne.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2303/17).

Troop Convoys.

T.C.S. W.S.5B. T.C.S. comprising CAPETOWN CASTLE, PASTEUR and FENNLAND with 1500, 3100 and 2600 Canadian troops respectively are due to arrive Clyde (date).
Vessels are then to be prepared for W.S.5.B.
(D. of S.T. 0155/17 to P.S.T.O. Clyde D.S.T.O., Glasgow).

W.S. 5A. A.T. 1823/14 and A.T. 2150/14 Cancel R/V (Y).
Route for W.S.5 A from R/V (X) is as follows;
thence to outer end of swept channel into Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 0218/17 to C.in C. W.A. H.F., F.O. Force K.)

W.S.5A. ....

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

W.S. 5A. My 1711/13 amend as follows:-
W.S.5A fast, sails from Bar Light Vessel 1700/19.
R.V. Clyde Ships. Additional secret positions.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 0949/17).

Escorts. Intend sailing Liverpool Section W.S.5A slow group at 1800/18 speed of advance 10½ knots escorted by WELLINGTON, WITHERINGTON, WITCH, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, CYCLAMEN, GERANIUM, RANGATIKI from Avonmouth rendezvous in position 53° 38' N. 3° 48' W. at 1700/18. Liverpool Section rendezvous with Clyde Section, CAIRO escort and Belfast Section and escort in position 180 degrees Oversay 5 miles at 0930/19. Route thence in accordance with Admiralty's 1709/12 and 0218/17. CLEMATIS JONQUIL CYCLAMEN and GERANIUM to be detached as necessary to fuel at Ponta del Gada, Azores, thence to Sierra Leone.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1030/17 to Admty.)

Admiralty 2250/6. Convoy W.S.5A Slow.
A/S escort (A) Liverpool portion.
WITHERINGTON, WITCH, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, GERANIUM, JONQUIL
(B) Belfast portion. VENOMOUS.
(C) Clyde portion. BATH, ST MARYS, ST ALBANS, WORCESTER, WATCHMAN.
Senior Officer of A/S escort BATH.
A/A escort. NAIAD or (repeat) or BONAVENTURE from Clyde. WELLINGTON from Liverpool. CAIRO will not sail with convoy. (C.in C. W.A., 1152/17).

W.S.5A. Reference Western Approaches convoy instructions A G diagram (xii) ships will be in following position when you join convoy.
(WELLINGTON 1914/17 to BATH).

Intend sailing Liverpool Section W.S.5A (fast) 1700/19 speed of advance 14½ knots with FURIOUS escorted by KELVIN, BEVERLEY and KIPLING to rendezvous with Clyde Section at 0900/20 in position 56° 08' N. 7 degrees 30' W. HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER will rendezvous from Lough Foyle. Convoy thence in accordance with Admiralty's 1709/12 2150/14 and 0218/17.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2210/17).

LEOPOLDVILLE. Speed 15 knots, carrying 1580 R.A.F. Naval and Canadian personnel, will be ready to sail from Clyde on 18/12. She will be sailed with Convoy W.S.5(A) remaining in company with them to R/V (X) in 25°W and thence proceeding independently to Halifax.
(D.O.D.(H) 1110/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

COMMANDANT DELAGE.

French Sloop M/S, passed Gibraltar West to East 1030/17 escorting PALLAS. Returned East to West escorting KAKAULIMA, IINFRA and BOPEAS at 1400 (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1435/17).

French Shipping, Dakar.

Following received from Navy Department, from Dakar, regular steamship service has been established between Marseilles and Dakar. If ships continue freely from (? Port) this service will be extended to Ivory Coast. It is expected also that a regular passenger service to South America will be established soon.
(N.A. Washington 1033/17 to Admty).

French Crews.

Your 1338/16. All Seamen ex VICTORIA embarked in FRANCONIA vide my ?1824/7 and are now in U.K. CHARLES PLUMIER can not be sailed until further crew is found vide my 1724/9 (refusal of French crew to navigate ship to U.K.) since numbers of Free French and D.B.S. available here are not sufficient.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1802/17 to Admty).

French Admiral Mediterranean.

Your 1045/11. Owing to recent change of appointment I now have no contact with new French N.A. who has not called on me. It is confirmed, however, from Syria reliable source that Admiral Laborde is in command of French Mediterranean Fleet and is being retained although due to retire on November 29th.
(N.A. Washington 1235/17 to Admty).

CUBA.

My 1157/27/11, 1901/15 and your 1338/16. Following personnel now remain in CUBA Naval Officers and ratings, 321, ships Officers and crew 201. Request information whether further arrangements for repatriation can be expected in the near future either by Spanish or Portuguese ships.
(C. in C. S.A. 2043/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

NORTH ATLANTIC.

Azores, Force H.

Return with your Force to Gibraltar at best convenient speed. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to recall ORANGELEAF. (D.O.D.(F), 0125/17 to F.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A).

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL escorted by 6 destroyers left patrol off Azores s.m. 17/12 for Gibraltar. BERWICK sailed 1100/17 to patrol off Azores, route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132/17 to CANTON, DERBYSHIRE, VELOX).

Force H. now returning to Gibraltar (V.A.S. 1551/17 to TRIDENT).

ORANGELEAF.

Position, course and speed 1200/7 (details) to Gibraltar routed through (details) (F.O.C.N.A. 0430/17 to S.O. Force H.).

Estimated position course and speed ORANGELEAF 1200/18 (details) Part company with DERBYSHIRE as requisite to R.V. with ORANGELEAF during daylight 18/12 and escort her to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130/17 to VELOX).

BERWICK.

Gibraltar departure 1030/17 in accordance with Admty 22 15/16 Route (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1142/17 to Admty).

TRIDENT. CACHALOT

TRIDENT leaves near Lands End 0100/19 G.M.T. to relieve CACHALOT routed (details). BERWICK leaves Gibraltar 17/12 for Azores patrol. My 1410/15 this force now returning Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.F. 1630/17).

Destroyers fuelling.

Request signal your view on possibility of obtaining lee for fuelling destroyers in conditions experienced by recent Azores patrols (D.O.D. (F) 1619/17 to F.O. Force H).

/S.M. Patrol.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (continued).

Submarine Patrol.

Your 1026/14 UPHOLDER, USK UNIQUE should be ordered to leave patrol and continue passage to Gibraltar after dark. 13/12 (D.O.D. (H) 2320/17 to V.A.S).

Tanker.

Your 1115/16 (tanker sighted by SUTLEJ) Submit German EUROFELD has not got a cruiser stern according to Lloyds and from a photograph, due to dark background type of stern is difficult to distinguish (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0944/17 to Admty).

WISHART.

Gibraltar arrival 1210/17. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1328/17).

Daily summary operations.

2 routine A/S patrols (200 Group 1630/17).

Malaga Incident

My 1720/16 Transhipment of silver to Italian warships. Spanish minelayer JUPITER left Malaga during the night in question.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1012/17 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

Foreign Legion Movement.

Reply to T.2. cipher 13/12 War Office 0745/17 to No. 20 Military Mission Brazzaville).

My 2051/14 and my 1126/16 Request early confirmation that arrangements will be made to send French Legion to Freetown in TOUAREG and CAPO OLMO by (date) for transhipment and onward journey. Request you will explain to Free French authorities that NEURALIA will sail in convoy and only means of joining this is by transferring at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1753 N/17 to N.C.S.O. Duala).

ELSWICK PARK.

My 0948/16. ELSWICK PARK arrived 17/12 (S.O.I. Freetown, 1038/17).

/Minesweepers.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

Minesweepers.	Minesweeper group 142 consisting of SOTRA, SARNA, SOIKA SVANA left Simonstown 0900/17 for Durban. E.t.s. 0400/22. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 09032/17 to N.O.I.C. Durban).
NEPTUNE.	Arrivals 0800/17 NEPTUNE, flying flag of F.O.C. Force M. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1025N/17 to Admty).
DELHI, MILFORD.	Lagos arrival 16/12 DELHI: Departure MILFORD for Freetown. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1047N/17).
NEWTON PINE. (British 4212 tons)	Following received from NEWTON PINE begins. Position at 2200/13 G.M.T. 008° 16'N 015° 25'W torpedo attack avoided followed up by severe engagement gunfire anticipate submarine damaged after 30 minutes action. No casualties ship not damaged or splintered 2230/16 ends. (C. in C.S.A. 1226/17 to S.A. Stn. Sqdn).
A/S Vessels	My 1800/13 S.D.F. A/S vessels sailed from Durban 15/12. Date due Alexandria (S.N.O. Simonstown 1545B/17 to Admty).
NORSEMAN.	NORSEMAN leaving 000° 22'S 47° 36'W for 3° 13'S 38° 58'W. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1610/17 to Admty).
Suspicious Ship.	Your 1434/14 addressed S.O. (I) Gibraltar, Lloyds state no CAMPSA tanker was near position on that date and that they have no knowledge of any recent transfer of oilers to Spanish flag. (D.D.I.C. 1818/17 to S.O.(I) Freetown).
CATHAY. S.L. 59	CATHAY after refitting from 16/9 arrived Freetown 1300/15, 7 hours after convoy S.L 59 had left. Completion delayed, and further delay caused by diversion on passage and bad weather. Ship left 16/12 and will join convoy when 3 days on passage on 18/12. Evaporating arrangements unsatisfactory. Deck of dynamo room above No. 1 block tank is leaking. Also reports ballasting non complete and stability is affected. Request ship be reballasted with rock ballast as necessary and modification to evaporation plant carried out on Arrival. Vessel is required as early as possible. (C. in C.S.A. 1559/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.C. 3.

Now decided that Convoy M.G. 1 is to be run to Gibraltar and that MALAYA is to accompany it to join Force H. Operation M.C.2 as amended by my 1315/15 (1407/15?) will be adhered to (exceptions). Orders for escorts. Force A (MALAYA etc). Force D (WARSPITE's screen), and M.E. 5A Convoy (C. in C. Med 1155/17, 1217/17).

OTUS
OSIRIS.

Orders for petrol, leaving Alexandria 0900/19 (Capt S.1. 0957/17).

TRUANT.
TRITON.

Routes for (V.A. Malta, 1059/17).

R.M. Group.

My 1645/13. Until R.M. Group is required for a special operation under your orders, suggest it should be deployed for service in Middle East as decided between yourself and C. in C. M.E. (D. of L.D. to C. in C. Med. 1640/17) See Med. Vol.

A.S.10.

A.S.10. arrived Piraeus 16/12 (Athens 1901/17).

Suda Bay.

Arrivals and departures (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1435/17).

ABINGDON
TRUANT.

ABINGDON returning due to weather. Remaining to North West of line 250° from end of searched channel. TRUANT expects to enter sanctuary in position 035° 34'N 014° 10'E about 0200/18 (V.A. Malta 1131/17 amended 1837/17).

Durazzo bombed.

Greece. Day 15/12. A reconnaissance of Durazzo and San Giovani Di Medua reported 11 ships between 12, 000 and 15,000 tons in Durazzo 2 small cargo boats in San Giovani Di Medua. Night 15/16th. 2 Wellingtons bombed Durazzo Harbour stating one large fire. Large explosions also caused in docks.

/Egypt.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Tobruk etc. bombed.

Egypt. Night of 15/16th. 7 Blenheims bombed Tobruk the bombs falling among buildings in north east corner of landing ground. 16/12 Blenheims bombed Derna Bomba Gazala Tobruk El Gubbi El Adem and a number of enemy satellite landing grounds. Reconnaissance made of Benghazi Derna Bomba Tobruk and Maddelena - Berdia areas. 5 ships 400 feet long and several smaller ships in Benghazi. No offshore shipping. Night 16/17 11 Wellingtons attacked Berdia bombs falling on buildings north and east of harbour stating large fire near W/T station.

Sollum and Capuzzo occupied.

G.H.Q. M.E. report Sidi Omar Sollum and Capuzzo occupied by our troops 16/12. 10 Cr. 42's captured intact at Sollum and Capuzzo.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1241/17).

Aerodromes.

X. 742 17/12. Your O/877 13/12
Under certain circumstances aerodromes in Mores may be necessary. Will you include in your reconnaissance Argos Kalamata and any other likely areas as well as those at Araxos.
(Air Ministry 1603/17 to H.Q. R.A.F.M.E.)

Air Report. Malta.

To 1700/17. All times G.M.T. 0854 enemy aircraft approached from the north and after circling for 15 minutes about 15 miles from East Coast turned away without approaching the Island. 6 Hurricanes up no intercepting. 0911 - 1156 Sunderland 228 Squadron reconnaissance Western Ionian Sea for enemy Naval and Merchant ships. Nil report. 0707 - 1200 Glen Martin 431 Flight Photographic Reconnaissance Naples and Messina. Naples - 1 cruiser in dock between jetties western side of harbour. Approximately 11 M/V's averaging 5,000 tons in harbour. 4 M/V's entering without escort Messina - 1 cruiser anchored in harbour. 2 submarines alongside western part of harbour. 2 M/V's in harbour and 1 M/V entering harbour. 0746 - 0937 Glen Martin. Reconnaissance Taranto returned owing bad weather - nil report.

/B.B.C.....

MOST SECRET.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

F.A.A. Raids.

Intend issuing following Communique, F.A.A. Aircraft attacked Rhodes (Rodi), Stampalia and Scarpanto, on morning of 17/12 Weather conditions made observation of result difficult but some fires were seen to have been started. All of our aircraft returned.
(C.in C. Med. 1208/17).

My 1407/15. Five aircraft attacked Stampalia result difficult to observe owing to cloud but fires started. Owing to bad weather only one aircraft reached Rhodes Aerodrome which was bombed from low altitude. One aircraft bombed Scarpanto. Pamplets were also dropped on the target. All aircraft returned.
(C.in C. Med., 1205/17 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (continued).

Air Report Malta. (contd).

B.B.C. announcement yesterday 16/12 that raid on Malta of 14/12 caused no damage creates undesirable impression locally that facts are being suppressed damage was reported in my 1.160 14/12. No Naval or Military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/17).

Valona.

Following is repeated for information. Military Attache Athens from Military Attache Belgrade. 14/12 Yugo Slav Government have information that Italians are organising a heavily defended bridgehead round Valona, whether to cover disembarkation reinforcements or evacuation they do not know. (1. S.L. 1918/17 to C. in C. Med).

M.C. 2.

Operation M.C. 2 GRIFFIN sailed for rendezvous 1300 zone - two. (V. A. Malta 2223/17 to C. in C. Med).

Operation Orders.

Your 1950/17 to C. in C. (Originated by War Reg. notifying C. in C. Mediterranean parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 of signal 1315/15, also signal 1121/16, not received. Signal 1121/16 and part 5 of 1315/15 now received and circulated separately). C. in C.s. 1315/15 and 1121/16 are amendment to operation orders not held by you neither of these signals was addressed to you (R.A.L. 2246/17 to Admty).

East Indies.

B.N. 12.

Convoy B.N. 12 leaves Bombay (date) R.V. with Force Q. Red Sea R.V. (position and date) (F.O.C. R.I.N. 0438Z/17 to C. in C.E.L. CALEDON, etc).

CRICKET.

Movements in my 1148/16 postponed further signal will be made. (C. in C. E.I. 0504z/17 to F.O.C. R.I.N.).

Air Report.

Ops. Summary 190 to 1200/17. No naval items (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1242/17).

/Mombasa.....

MOST SECRET.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Mombasa.

H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Ops. Summary No. 190 to 1200/17. para.4 Kenya 14, 15 and 16/12. S.A.A.F. made 3 patrols Mombasa reconnoitred Gaddana and El Wak areas and made one reconnaissance south of Zanzibar to investigate warship reported by coast observers. Warship identified as British. 3 Transports and 1 cruiser escorted in Mombasa. Bombs dropped by reconnaissance aircraft on El Wak.
(H.W. R.A.F. M.E. 1243/17).

HOBART,
CAPETOWN.

My 2312/16 HOBART now proceeding 20 knots to conserve fuel and will arrive 000° 070° E., about 0015Z/18 CAPETOWN will arrive 000° 067° E., about 2000Z/17.
(C.in C. E.I. 0514Z/17 to Force V).
My 2312/16 if no further information of raider is received HOBART and CAPETOWN to reduce to economical speed on arrival respective positions on Equator and then proceed as follows, HOBART give cover to shipping E. of 068° E., adjusting movements to arrive Addu Atoll for fuel about 0530Z/19. CAPETOWN search around 000° 10'S., 065° 50'E which is estimated position CITY OF CAIRO at 1520Z/16. Give cover to shipping East of 065° E., and adjust movements to arrive Addu about 0530X/20. Should opportunity arise of concerted action against raider HOBART at once take CAPETOWN under his orders. Keep good look out forwreckage.
(C.in C. E.I. 1244Z/17 to Force V.)

ANTENOR.

My 2312/16 (disposition of ships) ANTENOR to form part force V ANTENOR left Colombo at 0400Z/17 for 002° 10'N., 081° and then proceed to 005° N., 092° .
(C.in C. E.I. 0518Z/17 to E.I. Sqdn.)

Colombo departure 0410Z/17 ANTENOR.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0520Z/17 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

DAUNTLESS. My 0518/17 DAUNTLESS to form part of Force V. DAUNTLESS in approx. 006° N., 090° at 0900Z/17 is establishing a patrol to westward of Achin Head.
(C.in C. E.I. 0948/17 to E.I.Sqdn.)

At 1630Z/17. DAUNTLESS then in about 006° N., 092° E., to proceed towards Dondra Head at 15 knots for 24 hours, giving cover to SOMALI and other shipping. Then to proceed towards Achin Head at 12 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 1354Z/17 to Force V.)

YARRA. Departure YARRA 2005Z/17 for W.S. 4.A.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1025Z/17 to Adty).

Troop Transport. Your 0430/14 in addition to two ships mentioned in my 1234/11 three more suitable ships could be made available by replacing them by four British India Ships. These would have requisitioned and fitted out and would not be entirely suitable for British Troops.
(S.S.T.O. Bombay 1315/17 to D. of S.T.)

CARLISLE. INDUS. Arrival 0500Z/17 CARLISLE departure 0855Z/17 INDUS for B.S.10½ and W.S.4A.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0917/17 to Adty).

PERTH KINGSTON B.S.10½. Arrived 1300Z/17 PERTH 1400Z/17 KINGSTON and Aden ships from B.S.10½.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1405Z/17).

Convoy B.N.11. Departures 2300Z/17 CALEDON, AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM with convoy B.N.11.
(N.O.I.C. 2312/17 to Red Sea Force).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

Assab Attacks.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
EAST INDIES.
Summary No. 188 for 24 hours ending 1500/17. Following 28 Squadron night sorties attacked Assab. At 2015 1 Blenheim to piers numbers 1 and 2 medium Level Salvoes fell in each target area. 1330 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron made bombing and propaganda raid Assab. All bombs hung up due electrical failure.
In above 2 raids 2000 Arabic and 500 Italian pamphlets briefly notifying fall of Sollum and Capuzzo dropped at Berbera Burao Hargeisa Zeilah and Assab water front.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1836/17).

America and West Indies.

Troop Convoys.

Details embarked 0800/16 in CAPETOWN CASTLE, PENNLAND, PASTEUR.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 0253/17).

PORPOISE MONTCLARE.

Arrival 17/12 PORPOISE from U.K.
MONTCLARE from H.X.92.
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1045/17).

ANTHEA - MAASDAM, collision 8/12.

Your1357/16. At 0300/8 in position 0489 44' N., 046° 37' W., MAASDAM course 239 ran into convoy H.X.93. course 35° and collided with ANTHEA. Crew of latter vessel were taken off by MAASDAM and vessel abandoned in sinking condition. MAASDAM was unable to stand by owing to weather. Master of ANTHEA reports all books were left on boad. Position is on convoy tract but derelict has not since been reported and is presumed sunk.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1558/17 to Adty).

"Town" Destroyers.

Halifax departure 17/12 WELLS, NEWARK for St. John N.B.
(S.O.(I) Halifax, 1640/17).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

M.V. Armament.

My 1051/24/8. Allied ships particularly Norwegian and Greek continue to show reluctance to sail without armament. VANJA was advised to refuse to sail without armament by Norwegian Controller of Shipping New York. Consider supply of A.A. Machine Guns to these unarmed ships is of utmust importance. N.O.I.C. Bermuda's 1147/7. Request early information as to shipment of Hotchkiss machine guns to Bermuda.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1756/17 to Adty).

Australia.

TRIASTER. VINNI. TRIONA.

Your 2203/12 and N.B. 1829/12. Nothing further known of TRIASTER, VINNI, AND TRIONA. Moorings at Nauru carried away in glae 8/12 loading imposaible until they have been replaced. Anticipate TRIENZA with new moorings and food supplies will arrive Nauru escorted by MANOORA (date)
(A. C.N.B. 0300/17/3 to Adty).

Nauru Moorings.

My 0300Z/17. Requested that no ships be sailed for Nauru until moorings have been replaced and protective measures for shipping to and loading at Nauru have been arranged by A.C.N.B.
(A.C.N.B. 0305Z/17 to C.in C. China.)

Nauru Raided.

Pass to Phoscom Cheltenham from Poscom Melbourne number 21. Please communicate to (relatives). Enemy raider seen near Nauru 8/12 attacking shipping detained there by bad weather a ship seen burning no information whether crew passengers transferred to raider. All ships near Island ordered to proceed direct to safe Port. No Further news yet except arrival safely to Port of one ship not owned by Commissioners.
(D.N.O. Victoria 0955Z/17 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
Australia (contd)
~~America and West Indies. (Contd.)~~

Nauru Raided. (Contd.)

Pass to Poscem Cheltenham from Phoscem Melbourne No. 22. TITOKI 13th SILKSWORTH 15th at Suva KOMATA wreckage washed up Ocean Island no news yet of TRIASTER TRIONA VINNI. As EVINOS in bad order suggest discharging cargo Risdon/ Port Kembla without further delay, when repaired return loaded for U.K.
(D.N.O. Victoria, 0957Z/17 to Admty).

Merchant Ship W/T.

Admty. message D.W. and Notice to Mariners 2779/1939. Many British Merchant ships still arriving in Australia with undesirable type of W/T receivers. A.C.N.B. has had to adopt policy of refusing permission to sail until undesirable types of receivers have been modified, replaced, or removed. Action also being taken to reduce excessive numbers of private and other entertainment receivers installed. QUEEN MARY on last arrival in Australia had over 200 private receivers installed, of which a considerable proportion was of undesirable types.
(A.C.N.B. 1056/17 to Adty).

MANOORA.

MANOORA left GEPANIUM Harbour 2232Z/15 for Darwin.
(A.C.N.B. 1423/17 to Adty).

Unidentified Seaplane.

Unidentified seaplane similar to Heinkel 114 sighted by Coastal Defence Post (Officer and man) at 15,000 feet above Sydney 0640Z/17. Disappeared on course 90° (Grading B.one) Searching aircraft reported sighting object like S/M in 034° 17'S., 152° 16' E., at 1912Z sighted three times in 18 minutes. (Grading C.4.)
(A.C.N.B. 2359Z/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BADEN.	Left Teneriffe 0400/16. (F.O.C.N.A. 1257/17). Description (F.O.C.N.A. 1257/17).
HORBURG DELOS	Arrived Macrae, Galatz, 1056/17).
IDARWALD	My 1551/15. For RIO GRANDE read IDARWALD (ships scuttled). (C.in C. S.A., 0955 N/17).
ITHAKA	Arrived Trebizond 20/12. Reported she will discharge war materiel in transit to Persia and load cotton for Germany. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1542/17 to Admty. etc.).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.X.90.
(attacked 2/12)

My 0191 of 9/12 concerning H.X.90. Further evidence from Captain Mac Millan of MODAVIA confirms beyond doubt that he sighted part of U.Boat at 1630/2 observed through binoculars at range 5 cables. Several observers confirm this was not conning tower but may have been bow. U.Boat was stationary, unstable and apparently in distress. Possibly making vain attempt to surface. (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1627/17).

WESTERN PRINCE.

What is reply to my 2201/14. (Whether Mr. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munition and Staff among survivors picked up by BARON KINAIRD). (D.C. 1515/17 to ACTIVE).

Request early confirmation of reported safety of Mr. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions, and party. (C.N.S. Canada, 1543/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

ROTORUA
(sunk, 11/12)
signals.

Following is a portion of Capt. D. Liverpool's 1805/16. (Sinking of S.S. ROTORUA (H.X. 92) by U-Boat at 1315/11 in position 58 deg. 56' N. 11 deg. 08' W., re signals). Request signal officer on your staff may assist N.C.S.O. in investigating question of signals passed via CARDITA with particular reference to wave on which these were passed and whether receipts were obtained. (D.S.D. to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1540/17)

Submarines Attacked.

1140.

ACTIVE and ANTELOPE attacking firm contact in position 055° 38' N. (?008°)30' West. (ACTIVE 1140/17, to C.in C. W.A.).

My 1140/17. 8 attacks were carried out but target was in same position for last 3 attacks giving the idea S/M was on the bottom or contact was on a wreck. After receiving A/C report am of the opinion S/M may be damaged and surfaced in reported position. Am continuing hunt. (ACTIVE, 1600/17).

Your 1600. It now appears that Aircraft report was originated as a result of seeing you and ANTELOPE investigating a contact. Use an electrically fired depth charge if weather permits. (C.in C. W.A., 1816/17 to ACTIVE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0103. 60°N., 18 - 22° W., indefinite position (D.S. 469).

2007. D.F. bearings indicate U/B (Italian south of 46° N., and east of 05° W. (V.A.S., 2038/17).

Am over enemy submarine in position 55° 55'N., 7° 25'W. (A/C 1225/17, to Aldergrove).

Air reports enemy submarine in position 055° 55' North 007° 25' West at 1225. (C.in C. W.A. 1316/17 to W.A. Command, ACTIVE).

Am proceeding to investigate enemy S/M reported in C.in C., Western Approaches. 1316/17. Have left ANEMONE with S/M. H.32. (SARDONYX 1410/17 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian
1 to westward of Madeira
1 near Azores
1 or 2 may be about 40° N. 18° W. possibly bound for Azores Area.
1 about 50° N. 15° W. outward bound.
3 were between 54° 30' N. and 56° N. 16° W. and 19° W. P.M./16th.

German
No further report of the two between Equator and Cape de Verde Islands.
1 may arrive Lorient P.M. to-day.
1 possibly still north of 55° N. east of 12° W.
1 between 58° N. and 59° N. about 17° W.
1 north of 57° N. west of 22° W.
1 about 60° N. 20° W.
1 may be off Muckle Flugga outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1311/17, V.A.S. 1804/17, F.O.C.N.F. 1721/17).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., H.F. in NELSON, with HOOD, REPULSE 5 cruisers and 10 destroyers left Scapa at 1815 this evening to carry out tactical Exercises S.W. of the Faroe Islands.

At 0330 this morning M.T.B's 29, 31 and 32 on patrol off the Belgian coast sighted a M/V in ballast of from 6000 to 7000 tons one mile from Nieuwe Sluis. M.T.B's 29 and 32 fired one torpedo each; both torpedoes hit; and the M/V was seen to sink. M.T.B. 31 also fired one torpedo at a Guard ship of Trawler type further inshore; an explosion was heard; and the Guard ship ceased to fire. No casualties or damage occurred to any of the M.T.B's.

Two British M/V's were attacked by enemy aircraft at 0847 and 0900 this morning respectively in the Irish Sea about 30 miles S.W. of the Isle of Man; and an aircraft of unknown nationality was reported to be flying south-westwards over County Cork at about the same time.

In addition to the Mines which sank 7 vessels yesterday in the Sheerness-Southend area, C. in C., Nore reports today that a number of spontaneous explosions occurred in the same area yesterday, one explosion being sometimes followed immediately by another. The port of Belfast was closed this morning at 0442 on account of suspected minelaying by aircraft, but was re-opened at 1314 for the use of the swept channel only. The M/S Trawler REFUNDO was sunk off Harwich by a small Ground Mine at 1355 this afternoon; and a Mine was exploded just before midnight about 4 miles 110° from Spurn Point Lighthouse.

The French, but British-manned, Destroyer MISTRAL arrived at Dartmouth this evening with 3 survivors from the BRANLEBAS; which from the survivors' accounts, appears to have broken in half at about 1910 on Saturday evening near the Lands End, though N.O.I.C. Dartmouth considers it more likely that the loss occurred off the Lizard.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

French Convoy

French COMMANDANT DELAGE (M/S sloop) passed Gibraltar eastbound this morning escorting the French merchant ships VENDEMIAIRE and LORRAINE.

North Atlantic

Submarines

Submarines UPHOLDER, UNIQUE and USK were ordered to leave their patrols in the Bay of Biscay this evening for Gibraltar and will be considered as entering the North Atlantic Command from 0001/21.

South Atlantic

Libreville Report

Until DRAGON and DUNEDIN become available, Admiralty agree that the Duala Patrol must be vacated temporarily owing to other commitments.

Raider

The British DUQUESA, 8651 tons, Montevideo to Freetown and U.K., reported at 1400Z that she was being shelled by an enemy raider about 700 miles S.W. of Freetown. Her signal, although incompletely received, indicated that the raider was the ADMIRAL SCHEER. S.O., Force M., with NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE, was ordered to 08° N., 21° W to cover trade routes to north and north eastward, and left Freetown at 1700. These 2 cruisers have been placed at the disposal of C. in C., S.A., for raider hunting until further orders. HERMES and DRAGON were ordered to St. Helena with despatch to fuel, and ENTERPRISE to re-join R.A., South America Division in 28° S., 43° W.,

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Adriatic Sweep

V.A.L.F. in ORION with 3 destroyers made a sweep into the Adriatic as far as the line Bari- Durazzo this evening but sighted nothing. C. in C., Mediterranean, proceeded up the Straits of Otranto in support.

Submarines Lost

Submarines NARVAL (French) and TRITON are 50 and 30 hours overdue respectively and must be considered lost. NARVAL left Malta 2/12 to patrol westward of Lampedusa and TRITON on 28/11 for patrol in the Southern Adriatic.

TRUANT Attacks

S/M TRUANT reports on the night of 13-14/12 she sank certainly one and possibly two laden merchant vessels off Spartivento, escorted by a sloop. On the night of 15-16/12, she sank a large southbound tanker off Colonne, accompanied by the Italian CARALIS, which escaped.

U-Boat Campaign

WORCESTER (A.M.C.) reports that about 8 rounds were fired at her in moonlight at 0650 this morning by an enemy vessel, believed to be a U-Boat, about 360 miles west of Blacksod Bay. There were no hits.

MOST SECRET.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

All B-Class. Destroyers to Home Fleet.

When ready for service BORZAS and BOADICEA are to be sailed to join Home Fleet.

2. All B class destroyers are to be transferred to the Home Fleet and DOUGLAS, KEPPEL and VIMY transferred to the Western Approaches as convenient to C. in C. and C. in C. H.F.

3. WIVERN, WILDSWAN, VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON are to be transferred to the command of C. in C. Portsmouth, WITHERINGTON now and the remainder on relief in Western Approaches by WITCH, VANOC and VOLUNTEER. (A.C.N.S. H. 1543/18.)

5th D.F.

To be transferred to administration of C in C. W.A. on 1/1/41.(A.C.N.S. H. 1553/18)

Allocation of Destroyers.

On completion of duty with W.S.5(A) WORCESTER and VESPER, should rejoin Nore Command and WITHERINGTON Portsmouth Command.

2. WITCH should remain under command of C. in C. Western Approaches in accordance with my 1543/18.

3. VENOMOUS and WATCHMAN are to be transferred to command of C. in C. in exchange for EXMOOR and PYTCHLEY who have joined C. in C. Nore.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1600/18.)

U.S.Naval Observers in H.M. Ships.

Following instructions as to information to be afforded replace those in A.M. 2327/24/10. (Head of M.1606/18.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/18.(D.C.1200/18.) At 2330/18. (D.C. 2331/18.)

Movements.

JERSEY.)
JUPITER)

Sailed Plymouth 1033/17.(C. in C.W.A. 0012/18) To R/V with PUNJABI area 2.2miles. Rame Head Chapel at 1700.(C.in C.W.A. 1255/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

ESCAPADE,
ELECTRA.
ECLIPSE. Arrived Scapa 0100/18.

BONAVENTURE. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0731/18.)

NIAGARA. Sailed 0630 as by C. in C. W.A. 1636/12.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0802/18.)

Home Fleet. My 1159/17. Intend to sail in NELSON, with HOOD, REPULSE, 5 Cruisers, and 10 Destroyers at 1600/18 to carry out Tactical Exercises. Fleet will proceed towards 59° 30' N.11° 40' W. at 16 knots weather permitting. FO. Force K requested to arrange programme of R/C and Shadowing exercises and dummy Air Attacks on Fleet between 1030/19 and 1215/19, and to provide A/S Escort for Fleet from 1030/19 to 1230/19. On completion Force K to proceed in execution of previous orders. C. in C. Rosyth provide A/S Air Escort from 1230/19 till dark. Position at 1230/19 will be 59° 40; N.12° 40'W. Fleet will return to Scapa about 1200/20.
(C. in C.H.F. 0904/18 to F.O.Force K.
HOOD with C.S.2 and ARETHUSA are joining me in position 000° Dunnet Head 3 miles and NIGERIA joining F.O.C. 18th C.S. in position 315° Dunnet Head Eastbound at 1645, Swept Channel C. 16 knots. Course from end 282°(C. in C.H.F. 1120/18 to F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S.)
Scapa departure 1540 NELSON. HOOD. and REPULSE with MANCHESTER, EDINBURGH. NIGERIA. ARETHUSA and AURORA screened by COSSACK. TARTAR. BEAGLE. ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, ECLIPSE. DOUGLAS. SIKH, BRILLIANT, BULLDOG.
(A.C.O.S. 1815/18 to Adty.)

FERNIE,
CLEVELAND.
CATTISTOCK,
HOLDERNESS. Your 1330/17. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1013/18 to A.C.W.A.)

ACHATES,
ANTELOPE,
ACTIVE. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1018/18.)

MOST SECRET.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

VIMY SALOPIAN.	Proceed passing Swiths 2000 to-day to R/V in 061° 00' N. 015° 30'W. at 1200/20 with SALOPIAN. SALOPIAN leaves Reykjavik a.m./19 for Clyde routed through Minch speed of advance 13½ knots. Provide escort to Butt of Lewis. When released return to Scapa. (R.A.D. HF. 1031/18 and 1718/18 to VIMY. SALOPIAN arrived 1610 G.M.T. (F.O. Iceland 2230/18; VIMY sailed 2023/18. (A.C.O.S. 1135/19.)
FURIOUS.	For information. On arrival at Liverpool on 15th December FURIOUS had only 100 tons I.E. 2.6 per cent of usable fuel remaining. Route now ordered for W.S.5A. will necessitate FURIOUS not exceeding 10= 1/2 knots from position X" and, except with head wind, flying only in emergency. (FURIOUS 1500/18 to Adty.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1521/18.)
ARGUS.	Intends carry out Flying Operations tomorrow as programme had to be abandoned today owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1640/18.)
VULCAN.	Request you sail for Portsmouth where she is to be prepared for special service. (D.O.D. H. 1744/18 to C. in C Nore.)
FORMIDABLE. NORFOLK.	Departed Scapa 2007, screened by BEDOUIN, MATABELE, MASHONA, and ESKIMO (A.C.O.S. 2019/18.)
	Operations.
Dutch and Belgian Coasts.	Arrived M.T.B's 29,31,32 at 1022. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1030/18.)

MOST SECRET.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Enemy M/V. torpedoed.

Your 1048/17/12. Coast was made at Zeebrugge, closed to 1 mile from shore. Sighting nothing, altered course for Flushing Roads. Visibility which had been good deteriorated to about ½ mile. At 0330 a large M/V was sighted 000 degrees 1 mile from Nieuwe Sluis, M.T.B.'s 32 and 29 opened out to northward and fired a torpedo each. Both hit, M/V was seen to break up and sink. Heavy machine gun from M/V opened fire, without hitting, just before M/V sunk. On retiring 32 sighted guard boat of trawler type and fired a torpedo which missed, but guard boat was seen to be hit by machine gun fire. M.T.B. 32 then disengaged to seaward with 29 M.T.B. 31 seeing M/V torpedoed, proceeded up the Roads and became engaged with guard ships. A torpedo was fired at 1 of trawler type, an explosion was felt and guard ship ceased fire, 31 then disengaged and retired with 32. Estimated M/V was 6,000 to 7,000 tons in ballast. No casualties or damage, but 31's engine room partially flooded from unknown cause. Her second torpedo was jettisoned to lighten boat on this account.
(BEEHIVE 1120/18. C. in C. Nore.)
(C. in C. Nore 1606/18 to Adty.)

Operation. P.V.3.

Will be carried out tonight commencing at 2000. Tracks in 40 Q.Z.S., 20 miles each side of Smith's Knoll Light Float. (C. in C. Nore 1249/18.) Cancelled tonight (C. in C. Nore 1603/18.)

Western Channel.

PUNJABI, JERSEY, JUPITER to patrol tonight between 4° W and 6° W. on about 49° 45' N., returning to arrive 2.2 miles South of Rame Head Chapel at 1030/19. To destroy any Enemy Vessels approaching Coast. (C. in C. W.A. 1334/18 to JERSEY.)

WELLARD.

Proceed so as to be at 1300/19 in 055° 77 miles from your noon 18th position. Patrol in the vicinity till dark then if nothing met return to base.
(C. in C. WA. 1914/18 to WELLARD.)

Operation. SPECIMEN.

Zero day for Operation PEGASUS is 19/12.
(H.Q.F.C. 1915/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TRIBUNE. Movements. (S.2. 1021/18.) (V.A.S. 1024/18 to S.2). (S.2. 1905/18.)

PROTEUS. To be transferred temporarily to 5th Flotilla from date of arrival in U.K. (V.A.S. 1033/18.)

RUBIS. Arrived Dundee (S.9. 1237/18.)

O.23. Movements (S.9. 1403/18.) Exercises cancelled. Proceed to execute previous orders.(S.9. 1417/18 to O.23).

L.23. In Scapa Flow tomorrow.(A.C.O.S. 1603/18.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1636/18.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/19. (V.A.S. 1821/18.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Following Patrols being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0002/18.)
My 0002/18. HORNLI, STAB, S.9. all cancelled, and SYDERO and MUGGY, not being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1254/18 to C. in C. H.F.) Patrol S.T.1. for AK/18 abandoned. S.T.2. at 0930/19 and ST.1. at 1400/19.(C.O. N.A.S. Stornoway 1412/18 to A.C.O.S.)

Norwegian Coast. Offensive Patrol. If weather suitable propose carrying out our offensive patrol against enemy shipping in the vicinity of Haugesund and Bommel Fjord with 4 Skuas leaving Hatston 1100/19.(Hatston 1056/18 to A.C.O.S.)

Kite in TONBRIDGE. Your 1056/18.Approved.(A.C.O.S. 1721/18. to Hatston) Approval is given to C. in C. Portsmouth's proposal to fly one Kite up to 3,500 feet from TONBRIDGE between 1000 and 1200 hours on 19/12 in West Solent Area. Kite not to be flown if cloud base is below 1000' and visibility is less than 1500 yards. Warn Pilots.(Air Ministry F.O.6.1130/18 to H.Q.B.C.)

MOST SECRET.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Hatston. Your 1523/15. Against an initial equipment of 20 aircraft 42 and 22 squadrons at present each hold 18 Beauforts. In view of ease of reinforcing 42 squadron (2 hour flight) considered unnecessary to send detachment 22 squadron until situation demands it. Emphasise in addition that all coastal command aircraft on patrol are available for attack of fleeting target. (Air Ministry 1220/18 to Adty.)

SILENT
SINKER.
Escorts. Your 1100/18. Request you will inform me in what areas in Irish Sea and North Channel Fighter Escort can be provided for SILENT and SINKER on 19th.
(C. in C. W.A. 1306/18 to H.Q.F.C.)

TIRPITZ.)
Lorient)
Brest.) 22 Sqdn. to attack TIRPITZ tonight at Wilhelmshaven.
53 Sqdn. to attack S/M's at Lorient.
59 Sqdn., to attack S/M's and Dockyard at Brest.(H.Q.C.C. 1315/18 to 16 Group, North Coates,Thorney Island.)

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn. to attack S/M's in Basin tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1411/18 to 15 Group St. Eval.)

Torpedo Bomber. Your 1854/17. No. 42 Squadron is at Wick and not yet up to operational strength. No. 22. Squadron is in the Wash Area. These 2 squadrons are the only R.A.F. squadrons trained for T/B attacks, and may have to reinforce each other.

Striking Force at Plymouth. Fleet Air Arm squadrons when available are employed on minelaying duties, but at times obtain squadrons awaiting embarkation may be available as a torpedo bomber striking force. At present time no Fleet Air Arm Squadron is so available.

When the necessary R.A.F. personnel has been trained to drop torpedoes it is hoped that a torpedo bomber striking force will be based conveniently for use in the Plymouth area. In the mean time it will be necessary to make the best use possible of aircraft with their bomb armaments.(V.C.N.S. 2204/18 to C. in C.W.A.

Enemy Air Activity.

TYNED. (British,2697 Tons.) Bombed and machine-gunned in 53 40' N.5 W.Hit in No. 1.Hold.
(Cleethorpes W/T. 0847/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

CAMBRIA. (British, 436 Tons.) Attacked by A/C in 53° 20' N. 5° 30' W.(Portland Radio 0900/18.

Unknown A/C over County Cork. Aircraft of unknown nationality passed over Castle Freake at 0840 hrs. going south west, over Dunmanway. 0840 hrs., over Ballingeary 0845 hrs.,over Galley Head 0845 hrs. (Received at 0845. C. in C.W.A. 0911/18. to Adty.)

KERNERVAL. (Trawler) Repeatedly attacked by A/C. at 1700/8/12 while fishing 20 miles S.S.E. of Fastnet. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1152/18.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. Following 7 vessels sunk yesterday by Mines in Sheerness/Southend area. A number of spontaneous explosions of mines occurred during the day, one explosion being sometimes followed immediately by another.(C. in C. Nore 0034/18 to Adty.)

Belfast. Closed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0442/18.)
Open. Ships must not leave Swept Channel (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1314/18.)

TEVIOT BANK.
ICARUS. Arrived 1050. (F.O. Humber 1105/18.)

INTREPID
ICARUS. My 1331/16. To disembark Guns at Immingham and be ready to sail for Scapa by 22/12 having embarked Mining Huts, Taut Wire Gear, and full outfit of Mines. Details of Mines (A.C.N.S.H. 1137/18 to C. in C. Nore.)

Dover Area sweep. 269. Sweeping carried out to 0800/18th December. In Q.Z.S. 105 area to Westward of 'A' and No. 4 buoys extended 2 cables 75 per cent also 40 per cent searching sweep from Lydd float to S.W. gate. Negative result 40 per cent exploratory sweep between number 4 and Sandhead buoys found one mine and 5 explosive cutters.(V.A.Dover 1225/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Q.Z.X.42.

I consider it most unlikely that Moored Mines now exist in Q.Z.X. 42 if indeed they ever existed, and suggest Q.Z.X.42 be cancelled.@Reasons. Also consider that Mines about to be laid off this Coast should be laid well inside the 100 fathom line. (V.A.S. 1638/18 to Adty.)

S.(C. in C. H.F. 2329/17.)

R.FUNDO.

(M/S. Trawler). Sunk by small Ground Mine at 1355/18.B.S.T. in 51° 55' 36" N. 1° 21' 12"E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1752/18)

HARWICH Area Sweep.

Intend sailing 6 Fleetsweepers at 1630 on 19th or 20th December to carry out night search of 117 Q.Z.S. Sweeping to commence at S.Falls at approx. 0500 the following morning, ships arriving position 'X' at 0815.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1944/18. to C. in C.Nore

Spurn Point.

At 1032/18. D.W.Fitzgerald exploded a Mine in 110° Spurn Point Lighthouse 4 miles with S.A. gear.(F.O.Humber 2335/18 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Thames Estuary.

Believed E-Boats at 2325 near No. 56 Buoy, steering Eastwards.(C.in C. Nore 0023/18.)

Suspicious Vessel.

Suspicious vessel 059° 34' North 016° 47' West, steering varying course, high speed for type - timber carrier. Foremost stepped well forward funnel close abaft bridge. Found with Dutch WOENSDRECHT and made off on approach.(MARON 1240/18 to C. in C.W.A.)
Had WOENSDRECHT anything to report about suspicious vessel.(C.in C.W.A.1504/18 to Maron.)
Your 1504/18. WOENSDRECHT suspicious. Reported to be bound for Oban. No chart. Request instructions.(MARON 1900/18 to C. in C.W.A.
Your 1900/18. Proceed to execute previous orders.(C.in C.W.A. 1410/19 to MARON.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOUR COMMANDS.

Technical.

M/F. D/F. In Destroyers.

Your 1818/14. M/F D/F has proved valuable in destroyers navigation and for effecting rendezvous with ships or A/C. I would, therefore, deprecate its permanent removal and recommend every effort be made to retain it even if only a small set as fitted in merchant ships. Request further particulars of the factors which might necessitate its removal.(C.in C.H.F. 1130/18 to Adty.)

Casualties & Defects.

CLAUDIUS MAGNIN. (British, 2310 Tons.) Broken down between 20.D. and 20.E. Buoys. Tug WATERMEYER sailed to tow to Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1618 to Adty.)

NORWICH CITY. (A/S. Trawler) In 1000 Skerryvore 5 miles at 0100/18. Proceed there with all despatch (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0214/18 to Tug SHELDE) SCHELDE reports ship in tow at 1055 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1210/18.) Proceed to Clyde with NORWICH CITY (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1800/18 to SCHELDE). Arrived in tow of SCHELDE.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1732/19.)

EMPIRE ELK. At 0800 in 0400 Rathlin Island 3 miles proceeding with EMPIRE ELK towards Rothesay Bay. (ENGLISHMAN 0810/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Arrived in tow of ENGLISHMAN and SUPERMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2215/19.)

MARAUDER. (Rescue Tug) Requires dockyard repairs. Being sailed PM/18 as by your 1722/16. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1034/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BRANLEBAS. Following received from MISTRAL. Have picked up three survivors from French S.S. BRAMLIBAS foundered 0900 Saturday 14th.(C. in C. W.A. 1216/18 to Adty.)

French destroyer MISTRAL on passage Plymouth - Dartmouth picked up 3 survivors from BRANLEBAS, apparently foundered in vicinity of Prawle Point at 1215 approximately. Keep a good look out.
(C.in C. W.A. 1336/18 to JERSEY, JUPITER, and 1442/18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

BRANLEBAS.

Where did you pick up survivors and is there possibility of more being found. (C. in C. W.A. 1338/18 to MISTRAL.) Your 2055/16. F.S. MISTRAL has arrived with following three survivors from F.S. BRANLEBAS.

From accounts of survivors it appears that BRANLEBAS broke in half due to stress of weather at about 0910 on 14/12 near Lands End but it is considered more probable loss occurred off the Lizard. Written report is being forwarded. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1939/18. to C. in C.W.A

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.12.1940. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated positions (D.T.D., 1047/18 to C.in C. H.F.).

F.S.62. Sailed 0230. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0310/18).

W.N.55. 2228/17, escorts SPURS, FANDANGO. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0927/18, 0937/18).

W.N.55 Q. 1300/18, escort SAON. 14 ships. Route. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1037/18) Sailed 1430/18 (N.C.S.O. Oban 1550/18)

H.X.97. Sailing telegram, escorts HEPATICA, COMORIN (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1114/18) List of ships (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1119/18).

W.N. 57. Code "Material" 2300/20, escorts PAYNTER, ARCTIC EXPLORER. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 1206/18).

H.X.95. Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D., 1410/18).

S.C.13. Scattered, weather, hove to in N.W. App. Casualties. (D.T.D., 1413/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.94. Escorted by SCIMITAR, ARAB, EL CAPITAN, MARLOW. Route. (C.in C. W.A., 1455/18 to C.in C. H.F.).

H.G.48. Meet. 19 ships, DEPTFORD. (C.in C. W.A. 1528/18 and 1906/18 to SCARBOROUGH, VANSITTART, CALDWELL, WESTCOTT, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE)

E.N. 43. 1830/19 MORRIS DANCE, DRANGEY. 23 ships (13 overseas). Codes, Usage, Monitor (E.N.L. portion) Mixture (E.N.O. portion).

H.X.92. Report whether my 1330/6 charging date of R.V. was received by MONTCLARE and passed to Commodore. (D.T.D. to R.A.3, 1708/18)

F.N. 60. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1727/18).

F.N.62. My 2303/17. N.O.I.C. Humber reports no ship from Humber for F.N.62. (C.in C. Rosyth 0121/18).
Cancel my 0121/18. F.N.62 entirely cancelled VANITY and WESTMINSTER proceed direct to Rosyth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1225/18)

H.X.93 B. H.X.93 B. not met. My position 053° 46'N., 005° 08' W., visibility 5 miles. (ROSEMARY, 0845/18).

S.C.16. My 1101/(?11). Further machinery defect in LACONIA presents joining S.C.16 in time to be of value, you should therefore pay special attention to covering this convoy. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1106/18 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

/ E.N. 41. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys (Contd.)

E.N.41. 000° Cape Wrath at 0940 (A.C.O.S. 1124/18).

S.L.S.58. MARSDALE leave patrol to join S.L.S.58 (routed). To R/V with local escort (position) at 0900/26 for inward escort to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1130/18 to Western Patrol)

E.N.42. Routed as follows, thence arrive Pentland Firth 0600/19. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1215/18 to ALYNBANK)

E.N.43. } W.N.56. } Sail 1400/19 for Methil. Act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N.43 sailing 1830/19. On meeting transfer to W.N.56 due Cape Wrath 0330/21 and Duncansby 1330/21. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1547/18 to FLEETWOOD).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5A. A/S escort for W.S.5A slow, BATH, ST.MARY'S, ST. ALBANS, WORCESTER, WATCHMAN, VENOMOUS, WITHERINGTON, WITCH, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, GERANIUM, JONQUIL. S.O. BATH. Additional A/A escort, WELLINGTON. A/S escort for W.S.5A fast HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, KELVIN, KIPLING, BEVERLEY, OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT, FIORUN. S.O. HIGHLANDER. (C.in C. W.A. 1118/18 to S.O. Force K).

O.B.M. 261. 1716/18. DERBY COUNTY, YORK CITY, 10. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1730/18) List and destinations (1732/18).

C.E.19. List. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1843/18).

S.L.O.57. VISCOUNT and S.L.O. 57 expect to arrive Oban 0600/19. VISCOUNT requiring fuel. (VISCOUNT, 1800/18).

S.L.57 B. Detach YORK CITY in time to rendezvous S.L.57 B in 053° 46'N. 005° 08'W. at 1100/19. (C.in C. W.A. 1844/18).

W.S.5A (contd.) Intend sailing Clyde portion of W.S.5A slow 12 ships escorted by BONAVENTURE, BATH, ST. ALBANS, ST. MARYS, WATCHMAN, WORCESTER 2200/18 to R/V in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1155/18 to Admty.)

Request information whether Clyde portion of W.S.5A slow will be ready to sail a.m./19th and, if not, earliest time of sailing. (C.in C. W.A. 1155/18 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

/ Admiralty 2250/6 ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys
W.S.5A. (Contd.)

Admiralty 2250/6.
A/S escort for convoy W.S.5A fast:-
Liverpool Portion. KELVIN, KIPLING, BEVERLEY.
Clyde Portion, OTTAWA, ST.LAURENT, PIORUN. HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, will join from Londonderry.
S.O. of escort HIGHLANDER.
Further orders will be given for escorts leaving convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 1212/18 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Your 1155/18. T.L.C's all loaded and all ships at tail of bank except MAHSEER. MAHSEER will proceed down river 19/12 and should be swung and ready for sea p.m./19 Thursday evening. Thursday night 19/12 is earliest time for all six to sail and this time depends on weather moderating and above difficulties being overcome. D.S.T. O. Glasgow is replying regarding other ships concerned.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1535/18).

Sailed WELLINGTON, WETHERINGTON, WITCH, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, GERANIUM, JONQUIL escorting W.S.5A (Slow) 1615.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1817/18).

Sailed Belfast portion of W.S.5A slow escorted by MONTGOMERY to rendezvous in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1030/17. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2335/18).

Your 1155/18. All troop transports included in W.S.5A (slow) will be ready to sail 2200/18. EMPIRE TROOPER has defective capstan and may have to slip cable. LEOPOLDVILLE will sail without adjusting compasses. 1900/18.

Reference W.A. Convoy instructions section C diagram (xii) ships will be in following positions when you join convoy. WITHERINGTON, GERANIUM, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, CYCLAMEN, WITCH (b) (c) (d) (e) (g) (n) respectively. WELLINGTON will then be part of anti-aircraft escort. Request you as Senior Officer of anti-submarine escort readjust position as desired.
VENOMOUS from Belfast is also expected to join 0930/19 (WELLINGTON, 1914/18 to BATH)

BATH, ST. MARYS and ST.ALBANS to proceed to Belfast to complete with water afterwards sailing to rejoin convoy.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2255/18 to BATH).

Sailed Clyde portion..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys
W.S.5A (contd.)

Sailed Clyde portion W.S.5A slow escorted by BATH, ST. MARYS, WORCESTER and WATCHMAN to R/V in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/17.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2350/18 to Admty.)

6 M/V's.

N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 1916/17 (sailing of 6 M.V's), detail one A/S trawler as escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1104/18).

My 1916/17. Sailed for onward routeing. Escort A/S trawler PEARL. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1817/18).

8 M/V's

N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 1913/17 (sailing of 8 M.V's). detail 2 A/S trawlers as escort; to arrive off Q.Z.S. 180 at 0900/20 thence to Falmouth (C.in C. W.A. 1112/18).
My 1913/17 and your 1112/18. Sailed 5 M.V. for Hartland Cap. Escort A/S trawlers KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and VICTRIX. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1736/16).

7 M/V's

Approx. 7 small M/V's escort MOLLUSC for Tees and Tyne will be sailed from Humber 20/12. (C.in C. Nore 2330/18)

SATURNUS.

Your 1747/17. Swedish Naval Attache was informed December 13th that it was in order for SATURNUS to report every 4 hours, and undertook to inform Swedish authorities Naval Attache states that this has been done.
(Hd. of M. 1219/18 to N.A. Stockholm).

E. Coast Shipping.

Cancel my 2227/11. Ministry of Shipping has now been requested to rearrange temporarily its programmes to ensure that minimum number of ocean going motor ships will discharge on East coast south of Firth of Forth also that as many motor coasting vessels as possible will be transferred from East to West coast trading. There will remain however a number of motor ships essential for maintaining supplies on East coast, and subject to Admiralty agreement, these may proceed. The instructions already given with regard to towage at Tyne, Tees and Blyth still remain in force. Important that ocean going motor ships should keep their engine revolutions as low as possible, consistent with navigability, in waters where acoustic mines are suspected. Such ships should be instructed that, when they leave convoy to enter a harbour or for any other reason, they should not increase

/ their ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

E. Coast Shipping. (contd.)

their engine reveolutions above what they have been using whilst in convoy.
Motor consting vessels, when approaching harbours and particularly between Humber light vessel and Grimsby roads and also between the Sunk light vessel and Southend are to be instructed to reduce their engine revolutions to half speed, or as low as safety permits, although this may entail temporarily parting from convoy.
The number of ocean going motor tankers coming to East Coast ports will be decided as at present by direct consultation between the Oil Board and Admiralty.
Subject to above instructions, motor vessels on the East Coast now being held should be allowed to proceed.
(D.T.D. 1852/18 to A.I.C.47).

My 2212/13 Admiralty Agreement for coasting and ocean-going motor ships to proceed may be assumed to have been given unless specific signals to the contrary for named ships are made by the Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1853/18 to A.I.C.47).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

SERPA PINTO.
MOUZINHO.

SERPA PINTO and MOUZINHO leave Casablanca for Lisbon on 20/12 and 23/12 respectively after transporting French nationals from Freetown at the request of British Government. Request patrols be instructed to give these ships free passage.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1628/18 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Intelligence Shipping and French Warships.

Following shipping movements have been given to me by a source: VILLE DE MAJUNGA from Madagascar with Governor-General Ceykosti on board is now at Casablanca. She will proceed to Marseilles any time. Submarine which torpedoed RESOLUTION (the BEVEZIERS) is at Casablanca. ss COMPIEGNE arrived at Casablanca with a cargo of sugar from Lisbon. ss MARRAKESH left Casablanca for Dakar on 17/12 with 46 officers 372 non-commissioned officers and 400 men all aviation personnel: please see my tel. 0912 to F.O. Para 2 of 15/12.
(Originator not stated Received via Gibraltar W/T, 0945/18 to Admty and C. in C. S.A.)

Dakar.

My 1617/3 (report of warships and Naval units of Dakar). Following information from Norwegian and Belgian Seamen escaped Dakar 8/12 believed reliable. Warships then in Port RICHELIEU, GEORGES LEYGUES, MONTCALM, Destroyers LE FANTASQUE, MALIN LE HARDI, X 101 102 82, A 86 56 52 DENTRECASTEAUX, Submarines 4 large 3 medium 1 very small. Ref. para 3 information confirmed that another small Submarine of different type arrived and left around 24/11.
(C. in C. S.A. 1617/18 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Submarine Patrols. My 1026/14 UPHOLDER UNIQUE USK have been ordered to leave their patrols after dark on 18/12 to proceed to Gibraltar joining route ordered in my 1258/5 at position C. reporting e t a at E to F.O.C.N.A. 12 hours beforehand. Submarines will be considered as entering N.A. Command at 001/21.
(V.A.S. 0112/18 to C. in C. Med).

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL. H.O. 4 (a) 0800/19 (b) RENOWN 0000 ARK ROYAL 0200 or later (c) RENOWN. RENOWN's position course and speed at 1930 A 036° 00' 011° 11' 092° 23 knots. (S.O. Force H. 1501/18 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A.S. Patrols.
(200 Group 1700/18 to Air Min.).

VIDETTE, CIRCASSIA. Gibraltar departure 2030/18 VIDETTE to rendezvous CIRCASSIA.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2048/18).

BERWICK. Steer to the northward. Instructions follow.
(V.C.N.S. 2350/18 to BERWICK).

South Atlantic.

Libreville Patrol. Your 1815/14. Your difficulties are fully realised. Until DRAGON and DUNEDIN become available the Duala patrol must be vacated temporarily as necessary for other commitments.
(D.O.D. (F). 0004/18 to C. in C. S.A.).

W.S.5A. Your 2017/14 total arriving Freetown from U.K. in NEURALIA 1765 of which 1600 are for Freetown 160 for Takoradi and 5 for Lagos. Presume can arrange for onward conveyance of personnel for Takoradi and Lagos.
(D. of S.T. 0346/18 to C. in C. S.A.).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA Simonstown arrival 18/12.
(N.O.I.C.Simonstown 0930/18).

/Raider.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

Raider actions.
ALCANTARA.
CARNARVON CASTLE.

Your 1204/13 re report on encounter between ALCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE and raiders. In both cases A.M.Cs. were patrolling areas near lines of traffic. These patrols were ordered in relation to general plan of patrolling local areas which is varied in accordance with ships and information available. In the case of ALCANTARA, R.A.S.A.D. considered indications D/F and other were that a raider was bound for South Atlantic, tendency appeared to be for raiders to strike in Pernambuco area first, and patrols of which ALCANTAR was one were ordered on this basis. ALCANTARA was subsequently ordered south as the further movements of the raider were anticipated. No detailed information re CARNARVON CASTLE but patrol was ordered on the same general principle. Contacts were not therefore the result of organised search or quite fortuitous, but rather the result of careful anticipation of the possibilities and probabilities by R.A.S.A.D. and C. in C. S.A. in selecting areas in which to operate which met with deserved good fortune. (C. in C. S.A. 0917N/18 to C. in C. E. Indies).

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Your 1359/13 re Enemy reports transmitted by CARNARVON CASTLE request your remarks without breaking W/T silence as to reason of no reception of these signals. (C. in C. S.A. 1106/18 to S.O.S.A. Div).

Convoys.

Your 2219/26/11 Paragraph (2) (a) and your 2150/14/12 Paragraph (VII) Presumed speed of advance of fast and slow groups combined 10½ knots. (C. in C. S.A. 1157/18 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

Bearings obtained at 2259/17 G.M.T. on 5310 Kcs. Probably from enemy unit in vicinity of 7°N. 30°W. (D.D.I.C. 1025/18).

Surface Raider.

D/F bearings - indicate presence of German surface unit probably on great circle Bermuda-Capetown at 2257Z/17. (C. in C. S.A. 1309N/18 to R.A.S.A.D).

DUQUESA.
Raider Report.

British 8651 tons Following has been read. DUQUESA 00° 57'N, 22° 42'W (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1401Z/18 to Flowerdown W/T).

/Reference.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

DUQUESA
Raider Report.
(contd);

Reference RRR report from DUQUESA. Further signal received much mutilated (?gives) position 000° 57' N 022° 42'W word battleship quite clear and letters P.O.Z. C.K preceeding. Considered pocket battleship. NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE in harbour told to raise steam with all despatch.
(C. in C. S.A. 1327N/18 to Admty).

NEPTUNE.
DORSETSHIRE.

Proceed with NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE for 008° N (? 021°) W to act as cover for trade routes to North and North Eastward. If no other instructions or information received carry out search in that area and to North and North Eastward of raider's reported position.
(C. in C. S.A. 1531/18 to S.O. Force M)

Departure 1700/18 S.O. Force M. in NEPTUNE with DORSETSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. South Atlantic's 1531/18 (Force M. to proceed to act as cover for trade routes and to carry out search eastward of raider's position).
(S.O. (I) Freetown 1851N/18 to Admty).

Your 1327/18 NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE are at your disposal for raider hunting until further orders.
(D.O.D. (F) 1907/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

At 1400Z/18 RRRR message received from DUQUESA, reporting being shelled in 00° 57'N 22° 42'W. Further much mutilated signal was received with word battleship quite clear and letters POZCK proceeding. Considered that raider is ADMIRAL SCHEER.
(D.D.I.C. 1954/18 to "A" Message H.and A).

HERMES.
DRAGON.

Proceed ST. Helena with despatch to fuel.
(C. in C. S.A. 1335/18).

ENTERPRISE.

Rejoin R.A. S.A.D.
(C. in C. S.A. 1345/18 to ENTERPRISE).

R/V with CUMBERLAND in 028°S 043° W at 1600Z/20.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2108/18 to ENTERPRISE).

/WILLEM.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN — My 0703/13 Onward programme of Netherlands Minelayer WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN subject to satisfactory weather conditions is as follows. Capetown leave P.M. 22 etc.

Requirements at Durban and Mauritius. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1330Z/18).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. — Arrived Montevideo 1000/18 departs on patrol 0930/19. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1501Z/18 to Admty)

Foreign Legion Movement. — Following from Col. Williams Captain (?Porter) suggests legion should proceed direct to Cape after calling at Pointe Noire. If transhipment military this could then take place at Cape which is not much further from Pointe Noire than Freetown. (Commander Nigeria Area, Lagos 1735/16 to W.O.).

Shipping Interception. — Your 1325Z/14 (Re interception of South American owned ships on coastal groups) H.M. Ambassador endorses policy outlined in your 0908Z/6 and has repeated it to F.O. While recent incidents are still fresh he would deprecate any interception of neutral vessels within zone off Brazilian coast except in case of war necessity. He appreciates that action in zone in the case of French s.s. KATIOLA may be necessary but hopes that if possible, there will be no further incident off Brazilian Coast for present. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1740/18 to R.A.S.A.D).

Walvis Bay. — Your 2318/15. N.C.S. Staff will be sent to Walvis Bay as soon as practicable Question of A/S and M/S vessels is being taken up with D.S.T.D. Request information whether Union Government should be asked to provide (A) Examination service (B) port war signal station (C) fixed defences. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1927B/18 to Admty).

NEWTON PINE. — Report of attack by S/M on 13/12 and counter attack by NEWTON PINE - C. in C S.A. 1947N/18 (see U-Boat Campaign).

/BALUCHISTAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued.

BALUCHISTAN. Reference A.I.G. 37 622 A T.O.O. 1954/1 Departure 18/12 1800 G.M.T. British ship BALUCHISTAN, Capetown (N.C.S.O. Port of Spain 2333/18).

ASPHODEL. CALENDULA. My 1817/14 para (E). Am informed Consular Shipping Adviser Ponta Delgarda that have received information of Corvettes ASPHODEL and CALENDULA left that port 0930/16. They will not therefore arrive Freetown until about 24/12 and escort will not be available for "SHRAPNEL" until after that date.
(C. in C. S.A. 1059N/18 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

NARVAL. TRITON. Overdue.

French submarine NARVAL is now 50 hours and TRITON is 30 hours overdue. Neither ship has reported its position. Following books were carried by both submarines. They were not issued with extracts from S.P.02218. In addition TRITON carried (list). In addition French S/M NARVAL carried (details). She was not instructed in emergency scrambing, proceedure. NARVEL left Malta p.m./2 for patrol to westward of Lampedusa and was due back a.m./16. TRITON left Malta p.m./28 for patrol in Southern Adriatic and was due back a.m./17. (V.A. Malta, 1123/18 to C.in C. Med.)

OLYMPUS.

As programme prohibits ABINGDON and FERMOY (? helping) you attack to-day. UPRIGHT leaves at 1715/18 through position 035° 32' N., 014° 12'E. If weather suitable for A/S work 19/12 you must complete D/F swing by 1015. If A/S Trawlers do not make R/V return to harbour.
(V.A. Malta, 1205/18 to OLYMPUS).

Bardia bombed and entered by Army.

Operational Summary No.191 up to 1200/18. 1. Egypt. Night 16-17/12. 7 Blenheims bombed Bardia starting several small fires on the outskirts and destroying 2 A.A. gun posts. 1 Blenheim bombed Derna aerodrome. Day 17/12. 14 Blenheims bombed Bardia. Hurricanes continued to harry retreating enemy columns on road near Tobruk making low-flying machine-gun attacks and inflicting heavy personnel casualties and damage to M.T. Hurricanes shot down 1 CR.42 and 1 Macchi 200 confirmed and probably destroyed 1 CR.42 and 1 Macchi 200. Reconnaissance of coast from Derna to Bardia and of Bardia area. G.H.Q.M.E. report our troops entered Bardia on 17/12 but situation is still obscure.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1321/18).

Air Reconnaissance

Air reconnaissance 18/12 Taranto, two damaged CAVOUR near one cruiser five destroyers seven large merchant vessels. Brindisi, 10 large merchant vessels berthed inner harbour alongside. Bari fog prevented observation. Messina one cruiser one destroyer.
(V.A.Malta, 1511/18).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Albania supplies.

Your 1248/13. (G.H.Q. stressing importance of preventing Italian materials of war from reaching Albania.) Greek G.H.Q. reports10,200 prisoners up to December,13th. (N.A.Athens, 1543/18 to N.A. Belgrade.)

Asdic Sets, Greece.

Amty. 1806/17/11. In anticipation of requirements one type 127 asdic set suitable for AETOS class destroyer and one type 128 asdic set suitable for KING class destroyer are being sent Malta first opportunity. Reply awaited concerning asdic fitting of Italian-built destroyers referred to as SPETSAI class in former message. (D.A/S.W. 1657/18 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta Air Reports.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700/18 all times G.M.T. 0932/0947 enemy aircraft approached to within 6 miles of the coast. 6 Hurricanes up but no interception. Enemy did not cross the coast. 0545 to 1505 Sunderland reconnaissance Western Ionian Sea. Nil report, 0700 to 1230 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Taranto and Brindisi. Taranto outer harbour usual 2 CAVOUR battleships 1 damaged and 1 sunken. By arrangement with V.A.Malta, sunken CAVOUR will not in future be included in reconnaissance reports of Taranto. 7 M/V's 10,000 tons 3 destroyers. Inner harbour 1 6-inch cruiser, 2 destroyers Brindisi, 9 M/Vs. 7000 tons 1 M/V 10,000 tons leaving harbour. Bari not reconnoitred Low clouds snow and rainstorms encountered. No opposition. 0828 to 1105 Glen Martin recco. Massina. 1 Condottieri Class Cruiser 1 destroyerin harbour 1 M/V 7,000 tons heading up the Straits. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/18).

M.C.2.

Operation M.C.2. Enclosures G para.two. Convoy M.G.1. will pass through following positions. (V.A. Malta, 1721/18 to Med. Fleet).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TRUANT. R. of P.

TRUANT preliminary report: Night of 13/14/12 sank certainly one and possibly a second laden Merchant vessel off Spartivento Cape. Vessels were steering N.E. and were escorted by a sloop. Night of 15-16/12 sank large laden Southbound tanker off Colonne. Tanker was accompanied by Italian vessel CARALIS which escaped. All shipping proceeding by night only. Heard 14 distant explosions during forenoon 16/12 Italian vessel CARALIS was heard calling up REGGIO and Taranto probably for motor anti-Submarine boat.
(V.A. Malta 1743/18 to C.in C. Med.)

Lorries for Greece.

Your Q/30600 17/12. (? All) captured lorries and arms can offer gratefully accepted. As many lorries as possible should be petrol driven owing to shortage Greece of workshops spare parts and fuel for Diesel engines. Greek Government suggest transport lorries on decks TANAIS ARTEMIS PITTA ISIS now will leave (? as arranged) and by YDREOS leaving Piraeus 22/12. Presume you will arrange convoy.
(Mil. Mission. Athens. 1800/18 to C.in C. M.E.)

East Indies.

Air Menace. Japan.

Reply to Air Ministry X.305 of 14/12 re prospective threat of air attack from French Indo-China or Thailand. (Air H.Q. India 1045/18).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Your 1254/22 and 1304/23. Balance of advantage appears to be in use of Trincomalee while only one QUEEN MARY class is operating. Date she is expected to be available. capacity of QUEEN ELIZABETH QUEEN MARY and NIEUW AMSTERDAM.
(D.O.D. (F) 1927/18 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.S.4.A. — Departures at 0251Z/18 KINGSTON and two merchant ships for W.S.4.A.
(N.O.I.C.Aden, 0303Z/18 to Admty, CORNWALL, KANIMBLA, etc.)

Departures PERTH and CARLISLE at 0400Z/18 to join W.S.4.A.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0410Z/18).

WESTRALIA
SOUTHAMPTON
PERTH. — Admty. 0120/15 WESTRALIA will leave Colombo p.m./23 for Fremantle. SOUTHAMPTON will escort W.S.4.B. to Suez arriving (date) to join Mediterranean Fleet.
PERTH will escort W.S.4.A. to Suez arriving 13/12 to join Mediterranean Fleet.
(C.in C. E.I. 0746/18).

WESTRALIA,
HOBART,
CAPETOWN. — My 1234/17 and my 1232/17 to Force V only.
If no further information is received WESTRALIA is to fuel from Oiler APPLELEAF as convenient without delaying HOBART or CAPETOWN but is to patrol outside Addu Atoll dueing night of 19/20/12. WESTRALIA is to leave area for Colombo about 1100Z/12/20 provided CAPETOWN has completed fuelling. H.M.A.S. HOBART after fuelling is to proceed at 16 knots to position 002 N., 083 E giving cover to ? (shipping) and then to Fremantle along Colombo-Fremantle trade route. HOBART is to transfer to WESTRALIA any ratings stores or mails for Colombo.
(C.in C. E.I. 1244/Z/18 to Force V.)

RANCHI. — Subject to no further information being received RANCHI on arrival position 004° 065° E., to proceed to position 009°S., 055° E., at 15 knots and thence to Mombasa adjusting speed to arrive a.m./23.
(C.in C. E.I. 1246Z/18 to Force V.)

Port
Sudan
Bombed. — Day 17/12. 3 formations each of 3 S.79's and 1 of 4 S.79's bombed Port Sudan at half four hour intervals destroying 10,000 gallons of petrol, No casualties resulted. Gladiators and Hurricanes engaged first 3 formations damaging 1 S.79.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1322/18).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Mine-sweepers.

A.M. 1712/20/10 A.M. 2113/29/11 and minesweeping summary No. 48 para. 13. Request information as to intended allocation of SARNA, SOIKA, SOTRA, and SVANA as it is not clear which if any are to be initially based at Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 1402Z/18 to Adty).

Air Report. Convoy Escorts.

Summary No. 189 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 18/12. 4 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escorts 2 for convoy B.S.11 and 2 for convoy W.S.4A. 2 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. en route to Kamaran for convoy duties made airsweeps of Red Sea prior to night passage of convoys. All times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1621/18).

W.S.4.B. B.S.11½.

My 0632/15. W.S.4.B. is now expected to pass Aden 25/12 and arrive at Suez (date). My 0634/15 B.S.11½ will now sail on 25/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 1434Z/18 to S.N.O. Red Sea et.c)

China.

Cables.

Only Route at present to Hongkong Shanghai Manila North China and Japan is via Montreal and then Compac route from San Francisco. This means Government TFC must pass through U.S.A. Please asknowledge.
(Cables and Wireless No. T.O.O./18 to Adty).

OLE JACOB. TEDDY. (raider victims.)

Navy department has following information received from Tokyo. Steamer TEDDY was captured by German raider 6/11 and was later sunk. Norwegian Tanker OLE JACOB was captured by raider 13/11. OLE JACOB was prepared to fight but German effected capture by posing as British ship. German raider described as a merchant vessel 10,000 - 13,000 tons, 18 knots, mounting six inch guns and torpedo tubes, equipped with aeroplanes and painted to resemble ship of P and O line. Ship has dummy equipment to permit various disguises and has been very successful using them.

/In ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

OLE JACOB. TEDDY. (raider victims)

In crew TEDDY when captured were 4 Australians who were not among those sent to Japan on OLE JACOB and transferred to SCHARNHORST at Kobe.
(N.A. Washington 1721/18 to Adty).

America and West Indies.

Bahamas, Shipbuilding.

Governor of Bahamas has requested consideration be given to question of constructing small craft for Admiralty Service in Bahamas. Yard can undertake 7 wooden ships of 500 tons and lighter craft including boats and rafts. 40% of timber required can be found in colony. Remainder and all manufactured fittings can probably be procured in Canada whence opportunity of direct shipments are frequent. Suggest these yards be used in preference to ordering small craft in U.S.
(C.in C.A.W.I. 1026/18 to Adty).

CARADOC WAR BRAHMIN DIOMEDE.

CARADOC leaves Nassau A.M./19 and proceeds to Bermuda so as to arrive P.M./21. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN leaves Nassau A.M./19 and proceeds to Bermuda. DIOMEDE leaves Kingston Jamaica P.M./20 and proceeds to Trinidad so as to arrive 23/12.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 122/18).

HEPAKICA.

Halifax departure December 18th H.M.S. HEPAKICA local and ocean escort.
(S.O.(I) 1235/18 to Adty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Mines.

Japanese broadcast states that a Japanese ship sighted German floating mines while en route from Melbourne to Japan.
The broadcast continued "it is presumed that the mines were intended for the QUEEN MARY". (D.S.470).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AEGINA. Probably at Naples or Genoa, is believed to be sailing for Valencia 18/12. (D.S.470).

SPARTA. Docking at Genoa on 18/12 (D.S. 470).

NORDERNEY. Has completed loading 1,000 tons bunker coal.
(N.C.S.O. para. 1539/18).

BADEN. C.A.F.O. 422/40. (BADEN, Hamburg, America Line) Sailed from Tenerife night of 15/16/12. Description. Ship may be making for French West Coast port possibly St. Nazaire.
(V.A.S. 2119/18 to Submarines Area B.)
(C.in C. S.A. 2011N/18 to S.A.Station).

IDARWALD, RHEIN, reports of Scuttling on 8/12 and 11/12. Your 1957/13. (account of interceptions required required for propaganda Dutch E.I.) IDARWALD and RHEIN left Tampico a.m.29/11 CARADOC and VAN KINSBERGEN ordered to Florida Straits and DIOMEDE to Yucatan Channel to intercept. 2 Dutch aircraft chartered at Curacao and sent to operate from Jamaica. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN ordered to Nassau as advanced fuelling base. German ships known to be proceeding indipendently and speed not exceeding 6 knots owing to dirty bottoms.
On 10/12 (?) a W/T message to Berlin from IDARWALD was intercepted by a British tanker stating coal was very bad, and ship would be unable to reach even Azores.
Interception IDARWALD. DIOMEDE carrying out search close to Cuban coast sighted IDARWALD at 1320/8. Dutch aircraft also searching this area sighted IDARWALD about same time and pointed out position to DIOMEDE. IDARWALD brought to by DIOMEDE with shot across bows, abandoned ship which was on fire on bridge and in engine room. Boarding party sent from DIOMEDE. DIOMEDE picked up crew after preventing escape of boat by machine gun fire across bows and then went alongside IDARWALD. Fire was got under control, but ship making water slowly. Submersible pump used but unable to compete with flood. Fire again broke out but again got under control.

/At ...

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

IDARWALD
RHEIN
reports
of
scuttling
on 8/12
and 11/12.
(Contd.)

At midnight IDARWALD labouring and DIOMEDE forced to withdraw boarding party and lay off. At daylight 9/12 DIOMEDE again went alongside and attempted to tow IDARWALD with view to beaching. Ship settling by head and DIOMEDE again forced to abandon. IDARWALD sank at 1252 on 9/12.

Interception of RHEIN. VAN KINSBERGEN carrying out search to north west of Tortuga Bank sighted suspicious vessel at 0130/11. Closed and switched on searchlight and identified as RHEIN. On being ordered to stop RHEIN turned away zigzagging. Brought to by shot across bows. Explosion in RHEIN followed immediately with flames and smoke from Funnels. Crew abandoned ship. Boarding party sent from VAN KINSBERGEN but RHEIN burning fiercely from stem to stern and fire beyond control and forced to withdraw. Crew taken on board VAN KINSBERGEN and later transferred to CARADOC at request of C.O. VAN KINSBERGEN. RHEIN continued to burn fiercely and listed heavily. CARADOC arrived to assist at 1400 but fire intense and weather too rough for going alongside. Hulk useless except for scrap iron and sunk by gunfire from CARADOC. CARADOC reports RHEIN no attempt at disguise. Captain's written orders state ship sailing under orders of German Admiralty and Naval discipline enforced. Scuttle and burning drill frequently exercised. First destination Teneriffe Captain of DIEG (Sig. Letters Undecypherable ? DIEU (RHEIN)). Senior Officer at Tampico and issued orders to sail.
Cargo reported nil but forward hold suspected to contain petrol in drums.
Behaviour of prisoners quiet and subdued.
Captain was submarine officer in last war.
Both ships reported to have Derricks slung out board to hamper ship alongside.

Scuttling of DHMF IDARWALD subsequently ascertained to have been carried out by removal of man hole doors to ballast tanks under cargo in hold and opening of main ballast line.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1132/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.12.40.
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GRADISCA. Told at 1530/17 to enter harbour (Bari) immediately and pilot would take her to dockyard. She replied at 1600 unable to do so at present on account of bad weather and high seas.
(D.S. 470).

MAURO CROCE. (ex GALLIPOLI) 1049 tons, sailed from Barcelona on 15/12 for Genoa.
(D.S.470).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 18.12.40.
Wednesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

EMPIRE - JAGUAR. Torpedoed on 9/12. Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 470).

WESTERN PRINCE. Arrived S.S. BARON KINNAIRD with survivors of WESTERN PRINCE including Mr. Howe and Mr. Bone.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0444/18).

WORCESTERSHIRE A.M.C. One enemy vessel bearing 090 distance 8 miles position 54.14 N., 21.46 W.
(WORCESTERSHIRE 0739M/18).

My 0739. Enemy probably submarine.
(WORCESTERSHIRE 0650/18).

My 0650. About 8 rounds fired at me in moonlight by unseen enemy presumably S/M. No hits.
(WORCESTERSHIRE 0658/18).

DUNSTER GRANGE. 56.50N., 20.25W. DUNSTER GRANGE, submarine on surface, visibility good, cloud base 3000 feet.
(Portishead Radio 1050/18).

S S S S 56.50 N., 20.12 W. DUNSTER GRANGE sighted conning tower, visibility good.
(Bank ship, Scapa, T.O.R. 1126/18).

Following intercepted by Box 25 Barnet on 6680 K/Cs. at 1106 G.M.T. (Begins)
S S S 56.10N., 20.25W DUNSTER GRANGE submarine on surface. Visibility good. Cloud base 3000 feet. T.O.O. 1051/18(Ends.)
Also the following (Begins)
S S S Corrected position of DUNSTER GRANGE 56.50 N., 20.25 W. T.O.O. 1205/18 (Ends)
(F.O. Humber 1326/18 to Adty).

PENDRECHT. Following read. Position 59.05 N. 17.48 W., approx. PENDRECHT torpedoed.
(Lyness W/T 1434/18).

Detach one ship to proceed to position of PENDRECHT torpedoed in 059° 05'N., 017° 48' W., at 1535.
(C.in C. W.A. 1555/18 to SCIMITAR).

Following read. Submarine Raider Signal. 59.05 N., 17.48 W., PENDRECHT torpedoed, lost two lifeboats asking immediate assistance, only one lifeboat left.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 1605/18).

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Have been detached in accordance with your 1555/18 to SCIMITAR.
(ARABIS 1740/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

DALFONN. Following read. 58.28 N., 18.11 W., DALFONN attacked by submarine, suspicious tanker flying Dutch flag in vicinity.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 1743/18).

NAPIER STAR. Following read. 58.58 N., 23.13 W., NAPIER STAR torpedoed.
(Lyness 1835/18).

Detach one ship to assistance of NAPIER STAR torpedoed in position 058° 58' N., 023° 13' W., at 1937. Report name when well clear of convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 1955/18 to SCARBOROUGH).

Following from O.I.C. Resolution Island (Begins) 1834 G.M.T. " S S S 5858 N., 23. 13 W., NAPIER STAR torpedoed. Advise naval no bearings possible.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 2146/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Attacked.

THUNDERBOLT. 15/12.

Successfully attacked Italian U-boat probable Italian S/M ARGO class escorted by 3 trawlers on 15/12 in 045° 25' N. 001° 23' W. Hunted 2 sloops p.m./17 in 045° 36' N. 001° 28 W. Three armed trawlers occasionally encountered by day and by night.
(THUNDERBOLT, 0645/18 to V.A.S.).

NEWTON PINE, Action with S/M 16/12.

NEWTON PINE's 2230/16. Have seen Master of NEWTON PINE, summary of report as follows. Ship 8½ knots had just completed zig zag alteration 35° to port when torpedo observed to break surface 1500, green 145 degs. Course was altered to port and torpedo passed 15 feet off starboard bow. Shortly after explosion was heard astern and submarine seen to have surfaced and firing from about 8000 yards thought to be twin gun flashes. As crew came on deck with lifebelts Master hoisted Ensign at masthead and all hands prepared to fight. NEWTON PINE opened fire at 6000 yards, and manoeuvred to keep U-boat astern. U-boat inclination about 120 degs. Ship fired shot for shot with U-boat. U-boat fire became very accurate and straddled ship for line, shot falling one each side about engine room. Master decided to alter course to throw out range and altered 60 degs. to starboard.
First salvo after alteration straddled ship just over and short but next three salvoes were well over. By this time ship's firing was right for line and 20th shot landed apparently on target blotting it out with spray and also black smoke. This was the only fall of shot at which smoke appeared as well. Next shot also in line blotted out target but no smoke. Submarine appeared to roll heavily towards ship then right herself much lower in water then disappeared from view of bridge crow's nest saw submarine's conning tower appearing just above water 2 or 3 times for 1½ to 2 minutes after. Submarine ceased fire and did not fire again after 20th shot from ship. Consider it probable that 20th shot hit submarine and possibly 21st damaged external tanks in any case and caused roll and partial submergence. Whether main hull damaged not possible to say but odd that submarine should break off

/ action ...

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (Contd.)

NEWTON PINE, Action with S/M 15/12. (Contd.)

action immediately and by diving unless had to, range was 10,000 yards, sea calm. Important that area of this action should not be suggested and Master Woolner anxious that neither his name nor ship's be mentioned in broadcast or press. Consider he and ship put up fine performance.
(C.in C. S.A., 1947N/18, to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN (Contd.)

Submarines Reported.

1127. 56.50 N., 20.12 W., C/T sighted by DUNSTER GRANDE. (D.S. 470-.

1030. Off Gironde, indefinite position of Italian U-boat. (D.S. 479).

1543. A.F. message 59.06 N., 17.48 W. at 1443 G.M.T./18. (D.D.I.C., 1611/18).

1323. Bearings obtained at 1223 G.M.T./18 probably from a U/Boat between Sierra Leone and 30° W. longitude. (D.D.I.C. 1705/18).

1935. A.F. message 58.58 N., 23.13 W. at 1835 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2024/18).

D/F Bearing at 10057/18 indicates U.Boat may have been within 100 miles of line joining position 003° N. 010° W. and position 005° N. (?059°) West. Probability 50 per cent. Most likely position 004° N. 020° W. (C.in C. S.A. 1821N/18).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

For information.

Italian
- 1 to westward of Madeira.
- 1 will shortly leave Azores area on being relieved from Bordeaux.
- 1 off Gironde at 1030/18 probably entering.
- 1 in 54° 14' N. 20° W. at 0700/18.
- 1 in 56° 50' N. 20° 12' W. at 1127/18.
- 1 between 54° N. and 56° N. 15° W. and 18° W.
- 1 may be between 52° N. and 53° N. 17° W. and 19° W.

German
- No further report from South Atlantic. Possibly
- 1 S.W. of Ireland outward bound.
- 1 north of 55° N. east of 14° W. and probably west of 10° W.
- 1 west of 20° W. probably north of 57° N.
- 1 between 57° N. and 59° N. 15° W. and 18° W.
- 1 about 60° N. 20° W.

(D.D.I.C. 1322/18, V.A.S., 1532/18).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., Nore estimates that as a result of the recent heavy minelaying in the Thames Estuary about 12 single Explosions of an apparently spontaneous character occurred on the 17th in the Sheerness-Southend area, in some cases with no ships near them; and one further Mine was detonated in this area by S.A. gear today. Today also the British Tanker ARINIA was mined and sunk 2 to 3 cables West of the Nore Lightship and the Dutch Schuyt TWEE GEBROEDERS close to N. 2 Yantlet Buoy.

Submarines at Lorient, Brest and Bordeaux were attacked last night by our Bombers and No 22 Squadron attacked TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven.

The Swedish ISOLDA of 261 tons was bombed and sunk off the South Wexford coast this morning near the Barrels Light Vessel and inside Irish territorial waters, six of her crew being killed

MOST SECRET

19.12.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Troop Convoy

Convoy W.S. 5 A, 19 transports with troops and supplies for the Middle East, left Liverpool and the Clyde today, escorted by the cruiser BONAVENTURE aircraft carrier ARGUS 7 destroyers, 1 sloop and 4 corvettes. BONAVENTURE and ARGUS will leave the convoy after BERWICK joins from Gibraltar.

Vichy French

French Admiralty has advised that 3 more French submarines escorted by 1 destroyer will pass Gibraltar westward on 22/12 to relieve submarines now in Atlantic.

F.O.C., North Atlantic states in reply to an Admiralty inquiry that he had not sufficient destroyers to carry out Operation "Ration" (interception of ships) whilst Force H is away from Gibraltar. (see Admty. to F.O.C.N.A., 1255/13 and 1440/13 for policy re interception of merchant vessels see F.O.C. North Atlantic, 1224/5 12 and Admty. reply 1133/11/12) F.O.C.N.A. suggests use of ships returning from Azores patrol

North Atlantic

Force H

Force H. RENOWN (battlecruiser) ARK ROYAL (cruiser) and destroyers FAULKNOR, FURY FORESTER, DUNCAN, ISIS and ENCOUNTER have arrived at Gibraltar. (Note: recalled from Azores patrol)

Azores

Now that BERWICK (cruiser) has been withdrawn from Azores Patrol, DERBYSHIRE (A.M.C. is to be moved to areas F.2., G.2., H.2. CIRCASSIA (A.M.C.) is to be sailed for areas Q.2., R.3., and S.3., when ready.

A conference has been held at Gibraltar to discuss additional measures for the security of the naval harbour at Gibraltar, and proposals including indicator nets, loops, and loop mines outside the entrances have been forwarded by F.O.C.N.A., for consideration.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Raider

FORMIDABLE (aircraft carrier) and NORFOLK are to proceed westward of the Azores to carry out a sweep for the German pocket battleship en route to Freetown. DORSETSHIRE will probably join Force K in lieu of Berwick.

HERMES and Force L, including PRETORIA CASTLE, are to search on the western edge of the Cape- U.K. route.

NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE (cruisers) are to search areas on the South America- St. Vincent and Freetown route.

There are indications of an enemy auxiliary North West of Ascension on 18/12, which might have been in 1° N., 27° W. possibly on way to meet warship Raider.

CUMBERLAND
NEWCASTLE
ENTERPRISE

R.A.South American Division in CUMBERLAND (cruiser) has ordered NEWCASTLE (cruiser) to pick up oiler and fuel then leaving oiler to fuel ENTERPRISE, to join him in South Atlantic.

Mines

Masters of merchant ships have been warned of the danger of mines again being laid off Cape Agulhas (S. Africa, Cape) ahd directed accordingly.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operations

The Mediterranean fleet carried out a sweep into the Adriatic on the night of 18-19/12. The 7th C.S. swept up as far as a line Bari-Durazzo. The battleships bombarded the port of Valona. Enemy batteries did not open fire till after withdrawal had begun. No enemy warships or merchant ships were found at sea. (See Operation M.C. 3. Situation Report 17/12/40)

NARVAL

C. in C., reports that all books held by Free French submarine NARVAL (overdue and considered lost) must be considered comprimised. Fresh orders have therefore been issued to submarines UPRIGHT and REGENT. OTUS has been ordered back to Alexandria.

Destroyers

"K" class destroyers from the Red Sea are to relieve NUBIAN and MOHAWK (Tribal class) in 1941, when the latter will rejoin the Home Fleet, in which the rest of the Tribals are serving.

Malta Raid

Malta was raided by 2 aircraft between 2225 and 2255 last night, the first dropping 6 bombs into the sea off Grand Harbour and the second 4 bombs inthe sea and 2 others on land near Tigne. The latter was shot down by a Hurricane.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Raider, Cover to Shipping.

The CARTHAGE (A,M.C. is to leave Durban on 21/12 to give cover to shipping on Durban to Madagascar route.

The DAUNTLESS (cruiser) is to proceed to Penang.

The CAPETOWN (cruiser) is to proceed due West from Addu Atoll (Maldive Is.) to give cover to shipping. The oiler APPLE LEAF is to leave Addu Atoll as arranged by CAPETOWN.

China

Aerodromes, Far East

C. in C., Far East is not satisfied with the scale of protection to aerodromes.

Australia & New Zealand

Convoy U.S. 8.

Convoy U.S. 8 two ships escorted by ACHILLES (cruiser) left Wellington for Sydney.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Ships Attacked

AMICUS

British SS, 3660 tons, torpedoed at 1814/19 in 54° 10' N., 15° 50' W., WESTCOTE (destroyer) was sent to investigate by C. in C., W.A., at 1930/19.

Tug SEAMAN sent from Greenock at 2104/19

There are some 12 U-Boats at sea of which some 10 are to westward as follows:-

Azores and Madeira	- German	1 Italian
Cape Verde	1 (a)	
North West & West	2 (a)	4
	3	
North of 60° N.	1	

(a) Indications vague or doubtful.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dummy S/M's. at Harwich. — 3 Dummy submarines moored at Harwich have been severely damaged in recent Gale and are now beached. It is estimated that cost of repairs would be very heavy. With departure of submarines from Harwich the primary purpose of these dummies no longer exists. Propose subject to approval to break them up and release valuable material for other requirements.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1802/19 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 1130/19. (D.C. 1153/19.) At 2330/19. (D.C. 2350/19.)

Flare Signals for Invasion. — Intend to hold demonstration of Green and Red Flares now in force to give warning of Invasion from 3 vessels off Dungeness, Dover, and Hastings at 1800 on a selected day not before 21/12. Request concurrence. (V.A. Dover 1903/19 to G.O.D's)

Movements.

BONAVENTURE. — Sailed to R/V as by F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1030/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0330/19.)

SKATE, SARDONYX. — Arrived 18/12.(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0957/19.)

SALOPIAN. — Left Reykjavik. E.T.A. Clyde 1200/22. (F.O. Iceland 1030/19.)

CLYDE. — All movement on Clyde held up by fog. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1252/19.)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S.1520/19.

EGLINTON, QUORN. — Sailed 1702. (F.O.I.C. 1707/19.)

NIGERIA.) AURORA.) — NIGERIA to sail to R/V with AURORA in 310° Dunnet Head 10 miles at 1000/20 and carry out W.P. 51. serial 45.(C.S.18.1927/19.)

WHITEHALL. WINCHELSEA. VANQUISHER. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2258/19.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

PUNJABI. Arrived Plymouth 1100.(C. in C.W.A.2328/19.)
JERSEY.
JUPITER.

Operations.

Operation SPECIMEN. Arrived PEGASUS. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0722/19.) Your 1904/18.(re boiler cleaning of PEGASUS.) Approved. (V.C.N.S. 1501/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Western Patrol. CAMITO relieve MARSDALE in areas Q3,R3,S3, arriving S.S. at 1200/20, by which time MARSDALE is to be clear of that area. (F.O.C.N.P. 1040/19. to Western Patrol.)

Submarines.

PROTEUS. Proceed on surface at best speed to R/V before dark with KINGSTON AMBER in 50° 31' N. 0° 40' W. (S.S. 1446/19 to PROTEUS). KINGSTON CEYLONITE will R/V with you in 50° 31'N.0° 40' W. at 0845/19. (S.S.1501/18 to PROTEUS.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1607/19.)

SEAWOLF. Intend to sail as by your 0913/19. Expect depart 1800/20 unescorted to arrive 50° 31' N. 0° 40' W. at 0845/21. Route. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1615/19 to S.S.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/20.(V.A.S. 1647/19.)

L.43. In Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1739/19.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Being flown today TROST, STAB., S.A.2, and S.A.3. MUGGY will not be flown.
C. in C. Rosyth 0750/19.) Blenheim Fighters flying from Dyce to Flamborough Head and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0832/19.)
S.9. is being flown P.M. today.(C. in C. Rosyth 0836/19.).
My 1056/18. (Norwegian Coast Offensive Patrol.) Weather unsuitable. Intend to postpone. (Hatston 0905/19 to A.C.O.S.)
My 0750/19. S.A.3 cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1038/19 to C. in C. H.F.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2244/30/11. Patrol COLDSNAP has been cancelled.(C. in C. Rosyth 1730/19 to C. in C. HF.)
My 0905/19. Propose to carry out this operation as soon as weather permits. (Hatston 1851 to A.C.C.S.)
(Patrol FAIR. A/S. Patrol.) Cancel my 1300/17 and my 0212/12. The following Patrol FAIR will be flown during moonlight or on clear nights beginning 20/12. Cross-over Patrol 59° 52' N. 1° 27'W. to 59° 52' N. 1° 8'W. to 58° 35'N. 1°27'W to 58° 35'N. 1° 8'W.(C. in C. Rosyth 1758/19.)

Lorient.
Brest.

53 Sqdn. to attack S/M's at Lorient. 59 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's and Dockyard at Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1145/19 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.) 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C.1146/19.)

Kites.
Operational Heights.

The maximum operational height to which balloons will be flown is to be increased to 6000 ft. Kites will, however, be flown up to 10,000 ft. within the Portsmouth and Plymouth barrages. Request all concerned be notified forthwith. This increase in operational height will not be brought into force until all Flying Units have received adequate warning. Request addressees signal the Air Ministry immediately they are satisfied that this has been done. Air Ministry signal X.991 19/12 refers.
(Air Ministry 1106/19. to All Home Commands)

Enemy Air Activity.

ISOLDA.

(Swedish, 261 Tons.) Bombed and sunk off South Wexford Coast vicinity Barrels light vessel this morning. Six ratings killed.(Irishlights, Dublin 2123/19.)

Thames Estuary.

Request following information as to report that 45 Mines were recently dropped in area Yantlet Gate-Medway Gate. (C. in C. Nore 0002/19 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames Estuary. In view of recent heavy mine laying in area Eastern End Yantlet Channel Thames Estuary would there be any objection to trial, if technically practical, of Naval 20 barrel U.P. weapon mounted in vessels afloat and linked with local A.A. communication system.
(A.C.N.S.H. 0003/19 to Air Ministry.)

Thames and Medway. Cancel my 1001/17. Thames and Medway are now open. Vessels to use only southern half of Thames Gate. (Cdre.Sheerness 1113/18 to Adty.)

INTREPID. Adty. 1222/15. Intend sail 0845/20.E.T.A. Humber 1500/20. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1145/19 and 1357/19.)

Thames Estuary. Your 1310/18. (A) When s.s. INVER was mined near North Thames Gate, a mine exploded at same time close to DELPHINUS not operating near No.1. Yantlet buoy.

(B) When SUNLIGHT detonated a mine in 320° No. 3 Medway Channel buoy, another mine detonated in 285° Nore Lt. Vessel 7 cables.

(C) Two explosions occurred near s.s. ACCLIVITY and s.s. SEDULITY both at anchor as reported in N.C.S.O. Thames 1117/18 the mines being about one cable apart. Both masters of these vessels confirm that the interval between the two explosions was sixty to ninety seconds. The evidence in these three cases is reliable. It is estimated from reports that about twelve single explosions of an apparently spontaneous character occurred during the day, in some cases with no ships near them including one seen to explode off Garrison Point during night and one off No. 1 Yantlet buoy by day.
C. in C. Nore 1216/17 to Adty.)

Dover Area. Sweeping carried out to 0800/19 December. In Q.Z.S. 105, A buoy to number 4 buoy 90° to total width of 5 cables. Detonated two mines in sweep and two sweeps cut by explosive cutters.
Exploratory sweep number 4 buoy to Sandhead buoy negative result.
(V.A. Dover 1235/19.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Operation. T.M.E.B. To be carried out on Night 20/21, or as soon after as possible. From 50° 56' N. 4° 55'W. in direction 299° for 5 miles, and thence 090° for 2 miles. (V.C.N.S. 1342/19 to C. in C.W.A. and ADVENTURE.)

Thames Estuary. FENTONIAN reports one Mine detonated by S.A. gear at 1325 in 108° No. 2 Yantlet Buoy 2 cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1558/19 and 1806/19 to C. in C.W.A. and ADVENTURE.)

Off Stavanger. Your 2329/17. Intended to cancel O.Z.X.41 Prefer following position for laying. INTREPID and ICARUS have been directed by Adty. 1137/18 to be ready to sail for Scapa by 22/12. If you concur request you will issue operation orders. (A.C.N.S.H.1755/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

TWEEGEBROEDERS. (Dutch Schuyt) Mined close to No. 2 Yantlet Buoy and beached on Shoebury Sand. Crew standing by. No casualties reported. (N.C.S.O. Thames 2012/19.

ARINIA. (British Tanker, 8024 Tons.) Mined and sunk on fire in about 2 - 3 cables North of Nore Light Vessel. Believed one survivor landed at Sheerness. (N.C.S.O. Thames 2012/19. to C. in C. Nore.)

AROSA. (Norwegian, 5043 Tons.) Damaged at 0830 today by underwater Explosion in 130° Bull Fort 3 to 4 cables. Now docked safely at Immingham. (F.O. Humber 2346/19.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence

Walcheren.
Hook of Holland.

Several M/V's seen at 1200. A/C. report. (Chatham A.C.W.9.1440/19.)

Belle Ile.

One Destroyer, one M/V, and one Warship seen by A/C. at 1245.(St. Eval 1615/19.)

Bordeaux.

First class observer in Bordeaux 15/12 reports 2 Italian S/Ms and S/M parent ship DE CRASSE sunk and 7 other S/Ms in wet dock. Belgian S S BAUDOUINVILLE 10,000 tons moored alongside Place Des Quinconses is S/M depot ship where S/M officers live. All other Italian and German officers live in Hotel Splendide on same Place. In last raid bomb killed 2 sentries at hotel entrance but (?hotel) undamaged. Aerodrome temporarily unserviceable, all aircraft moved to Cassaux (Cussac)(?) Germans are very afraid for both bridges and also for power house on opposite bank from town above railway bridge. This provides all power for the district and is most conspicuous target.(A.2.) (N.A. Madrid 1845/19 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19. 12. 40.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ST. ALBANS. Returned with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0151/19.)

CASTLETON. Request as to time ship will remain at Portsmouth. Defects will require about 6 weeks.(A.S.Portsmouth 1040/19) Ship sent to Portsmouth for Stage 2 refit. Stay at Portsmouth is governed by this (D.O.D.H. 1823/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

NEPHRITE. (British, 927 Tons) In collision with Blyth Examination Vessel FANO. Estimate 8 days to repair damage.(F.O.I.C. Blyth 1250/19.)

Boats and Raft. Patrol A/C on ST2 reports sighting a waterlogged lifeboat, a white raft, and a broken boat in various positions 59° 35' N. 6° 36' W, 59° 40'6° 10' 59° 48' N 5° 32' W between 1100 and 1132. Area carefully searched but no persons seen.
(A.C.O.S. 2001/19 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys	Estimated positions 0900/19 (D.T.D., 1119/19 to C. in C., H.F.)
W.N. 56 O	1300/19, escort GAVOTTE. 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1114/19)
O.B. 261	Sailed 1018/19. 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1135/19) List (1137/19)
S.C. 15	Commodore in DARTFORD with 5 ships ordered to join H.G. 48 at 1100/20. (C. in C., W.A. 1404/19 to DEPTFORD, SCARBOROUGH, etc.)
E.N. 44.	2230/20. Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH, additional escort WOLFHOUND. 16 ships (12 overseas) Codes, Paddle Monitor (L portion) Mixture (O Portion) (N.C.S.O. Methil 1704/19)
S.C. 16	Sailed from Halifax 15/12. Route. Covered by ROYAL SOVEREIGN to about 30° W. LEOPOLDVILLE, who sailed with W.S. 5.A., to meet ROYAL SOVEREIGN to proceed to Halifax. (D.O.D. (H) 2223/19)
S.L. 57) O.B. 258)	Arriving 1000/19 with 2 ships ex S.L. 57 and 1 ship ex O.B. 258 with engine trouble (WINCHELSEA 0312/19 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
E.N. 44) W.N. 57)	Sail 1430/20 for Methil WOLFHOUND to act as A/A escort to E.N. 44. Sailing 2230/20 on meeting transfer to W.N. 57 due Cape Wrath 0130/23 and Duncansby 1530/23. (C. in C., Rosyth 1159/19 to WOLFHOUND)
C.W. 20	Intend sail BERKELEY and CLEVELAND at 2330/19 for Sheerness for escort of C.W. 20 arriving Sandhead Buoy 0730/20 and Sheerness 1230/20. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1307/19)
O.B.O. 261	Expect sail O.B.O. 261, 0030/20. Escort COLUMBINE 10 ship (N.C.S.O. Oban 1501/19 to C. in C., W.A.)
W.N. 55	57° 52' N., 08° 15' W., at 1503/19 (A.C.O.S.
O.B.W. 262	Sailed 1652/19. Escort LEEDS UNITED. 10 ships (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1742/19 to C. in C., W.A.)
F.N. 63	Intend sailing SELKIRK 20/12 to join F.N. 63 off Harwich for Grimsby (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1835/19 to F.O.I C. Humber)

/E.N. 44.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.

Shipping

E.N. 43. Sailed 1830/19. Escorts MORRIS DANCE, DRANCEY (trawlers) additional escort FLEETWOOD (sloop) 19 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1939/19 to A.C.W.A.)

F.S. 63. 38 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0948/19)

C.E. 19 Passed Dover 0630. No shelling. (V.A. Dover, 0655/19 to Admty.)

S.C. 16
H.X. 97 You may pass convoy S.C. 16 (?unescorted) in abo t longitude 039° 00' W. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is providing cover for this convoy. Corvette HEPATICA is in company with convoy H.X. (? 97) (R.A. 3 B.S. 1056/19 to WORCESTERSHIRE)

W.N. 56 1231/19. H.M.Trawler PERQUETTE, 4 ships. Naval commodore with W.N.O. joining at R/V 1230/20 GABOTTE senior officer escorting W.N.O. from Bloody Bay to R/V thence Methil. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1257/19)

W.N. 56 Sailed W.N. 56 (O) Code word Limited 1330/16 escort H.M.T.GAVOTTE. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1631/19)

LA PAMPA
AGRA Have lost contact. Area searched for 2 hours position, course and speed 056° 22' N., 009° 07' W., 122° 15 knots. Request instructions. Was escorting ships LA PAMPA, AGRA. (TRILIUM 2100/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 A. My 2350/18. The following did not sail, BENRINNES ADVISER MARSEER BARRISTER H.M.S. ST ALBANS returned with defects WORCESTER pass to Commodore. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0151/19)

Sailed BATH and ST MARYS to join W.S. 5 A (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1010/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

Intend sailing Clyde portion of convoy W.S. 5 A fast with ARGUS MAIAD escorted by OTTAWA ST LAURENT PIORUN at 2100/19 in accordance with F.O.I.C. 2210/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1053/19 to Admty.)

/2330/18 .....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

W.S. 5 A Contd.

2330/18 sailed MONTGOMERY escorting M/V STENTOR and CITY OF DERBY to join W.S. 5A MONTGOMERY continues with convoy. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1121/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

Following ships unable to sail from Clyde with W.S. 5 (A):- ADVISER, BARRISTER, MAHSEER and BENRINNES. If ready, and providing they can make good 14 knots, ADVISER and BARRISTER should be sailed with W.S. 5 (A) Fast, a reduction of ½ knot in speed of convoy to R/V "X" being accepted. MAHSEER and BENRINNES should be sailed for Freetown in the next available O.B. Convoy. (D.O.D. (H) 1215/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

DUNEDIN and M.T. ships CLAN CUMMING, EMPIRE SONG, CLAN MACDONALD, ESSEX and NORTHERN PRINCE are to leave convoy W.S.5.A and proceed through Straits of Gibraltar (date) DUNEDIN to part company as ordered by F.O. Force 'H' and proceed to Gibraltar to fuel and then to proceed Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1322/19 to DUNEDIN)

Operation "Excess"

BONAVENTURE and ARGUS are to leave convoy W.S. 5 A when necessary (but not before BERWICK joins) so as to reach Gibraltar (date)
On completion of Operation "Excess" BONAVENTURE is to accompany ARGUS and JAGUAR to U.K.
Convoy S.L. 58 S is expected to be in position 47 degrees, 23½ degrees on 23rd December and SS DURHAM in 46½ degrees, 23 degrees on 24th December.
Expected positions of friendly submarines at 1200 24th December. TRIDENT 39° N., 18° W 240° 9 knots.
CACHALOT 30½° N., 23° W., 060° 9 knots.
(D.O.D. (F) to BONAVENTURE) (1323/19).

Admty. 1323/19, para. 1. Consider it preferable that ARGUS should act as proposed in para 4 of my 0915/13 (S.O.Force H., 2358/19 to Admty.)

My 1542/19 as HIGHLANDER has already been nominated as Senior Officer of escort request that on this occasion you will place yourself under his orders. (C. in C., W.A., 1540/19 to LE TRIOMPHANT)

/LE TRIOMPHANT....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

W.S. 5 A. Contd.

LE TRIOMPHANT to sail with Clyde portion of W.S. 5 A fast. VESPER to join convoy from Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A., 1542/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Sailed Liverpool section W.S.5 A (Fast) with FURIOUS escorted by KELVIN, BEVERLEY and KIPLING. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool. 1730/19 to Admty.)

Sailed Clyde portion W.S. 5 A fast with C.S. 15 in NAIAD and ARGUS escorted by OTTAWA, ST LAURENT, PIORUN, LE TRIOMPHANT in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2210/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French S/M's.

French N.A. on behalf of French Admiralty states (begins). Three more French S/Ms escorted by one destroyer will pass Gibraltar westward December 22nd between 1000 and 1200. Object is to relieve S/Ms now in Atlantic which will begin to enter Mediterranean about end of December. East movement will be advised (ends). N.A. Madrid, 1202/19 to Admty.)

SERPA PINTO, MOUZINHO

N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1628/18. (SERPA PINTO and MOUZINHO transporting French nationals.) Request instructions as I am unaware at present of any guarantee to prevent these vessels carrying cargo and/or enemy nationals from Casablanca to Lisbon. (F.O.C. N.A. 1210/19 to Admty.)

French Convoy.

Gibraltar 1060/19 French sloop M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE escorting BOURGES, OUED TIFLET, VILLE DE STRASBOURG, BANFORA, passed east to west. 1255/19 French armed trawler ASPIRANT BRUN escorting CHAMPAGNE, VILLE DE TAMATAVE passed west to east. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1537/19 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

Azores Patrol.

My 1900/8 paras. 4 and 5. Positions at 1200/19 estimated as follows (S.L. 58 and KENT, S.L. 58 Slow, and BERWICK returning to Gibraltar). (D.O.D.(F) 1146/19 to CACHALOT, TRIDENT).

Operation "Ration".

Will you have sufficient destroyers to carry out operation RATION whilst Force H is away from Gibraltar? (1 S.L. 0155/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0155/19. No. Only one destroyer will be left for all duties. Your 2100/13. As suggested in my 0110/14 the chances of intercepting French escorted convoy from Casablanca to Mediterranean appear remote. Most favourable chance would appear to be a Lisbon-Casablanca convoy. Timely notice of departure should be available from Lisbon. Opportunity to provide overwhelming force might be taken by use of ships returning from Azores patrol. Signals referred to have been passed to S.O. Force "H". (F.O.C.N.A. 1110/19, to Admty.)

Force H.

Gibraltar arrivals 19/12 1000, S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FAULKNOR, FURY, FORESTER, DUNCAN, ISIS, ENCOUNTER. (S.O.I., Gib., 1048/19 to Admty.)

/ BERWICK ....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BERWICK. Now that BERWICK has been withdrawn from Azores patrol it is requested that DERBYSHIRE be moved to patrol in areas F.2, G.2, H.2.

DERBYSHIRE
CIRCASSIA F.O.C.N.P. 1139/18 not to S.O. Force H. and 1040/16. It is considered desirable that areas Q.3 R.3. S.3 should be patrolled. It is requested that CIRCASSIA be sailed for patrol in these areas when ready.
(D.O.D.(F) 1715/19 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Air Report. Daily summary operations. 2 routine A/S patrols. 2 Surface Reccos. to East 1 co-operating with FIREDRAKE in attempt to intercept German ship which possibly left Malaga during night. No interception. 1 Surface recco. to West. Area covered 7° West to 2° West.
(200 Group, 1700/19).

Conference held to discuss additional measures for security of Naval harbour. Following proposals put forward for consideration.
Indicator nets to be placed between boom vessels outside the entrances.
Laying of indicator loops and loop mines outside the entrances.
Your 2058/1/12. Request I may be informed when A/S motor launches are expected to be available. (F.O.C.N.A., 1800/19 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

FORMIDABLE.
NORFOLK. FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK will not join Convoy and are to proceed forthwith, passing to Westward of R/V "X" and of Azores, and carrying out a sweep for pocket battleship en route to Freetown as arranged by C.in C. S.A.
DORSETSHIRE will probably join Force K in lieu of BERWICK.
(D.O.D.(F) 0005/19 to F.O. Force K.)

Destroyers. A.T. 0005/19. Request you will sail two destroyers to Freetown as required by C.in C. S.A. These destroyers will also be required for FURIOUS - vide A.T. 1742/12, para. 2. (D.O.D.(F) 0020/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Reference Admty. 0020/19. In view of forthcoming operation in Mediterranean requiring all available destroyers can you accept 2 destroyers leaving Gibraltar for Freetown a.m.25/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1030/19 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA. Arrived Simonstown 1130/18 and will sail 1130/20 for Durban. C. in C. S.A. requested to inform Marine, Pointe Noire.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1057B/19 to C. in C.S. A.).

Walvis Bay. My 1927B/18 regarding Walvis Bay para. 4 delete reference to 60 pounder Howitzers. These have been replaced by two 12 pounders Guns.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 1305B/19 to Admty).

BRIDGEWATER. Arrival 1200/19 BRIDGEWATER (with ENGLISH TRADER).
(S.O.I. Freetown 1355N/19).

DELHI. Lagos departure 0900/19 DELHI for
(S.O.I. Freetown 1357N/19).

WHALERS. Arrival 1115/19 H.M. Whalers SWONA SKUDD 3,4 and 5.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1435N/19 to Admty).

FORT LAMY. Your 1515/18 para 2 (not to C. in C. S.A.). Confirm FORT LAMY carrying guns as mentioned in my 1738/9. She arrived Duala 19/12 and will continue South as soon as passengers and cargo of cattle and foodstuffs have been embarked. With re-opening of Gabon there is a large outstanding military and civil traffic to clear.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1501/19 to M. of Shipping).

Cape Agulhas Shipping Route. Attention of N.C.S.O.'s drawn to fact that although merchant ships should normally be routed 40 miles south of Cape Agulhas there are cases where Masters of low powered and heavy laden ships consider their ships endangered by so doing owing to prevailing weather conditions. Found in such cases the masters have to cross about 15 miles south of Cape Agulhas. This is the most dangerous area. Masters of such ships, including neutrals, if forced by the wester to keep to the northward, should pass either (a) within 5 miles of Cape Agulhas or (b) 25 miles off Cape Agulhas.

/Masters.....

MOST SECRET.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

Cape Agulhas Shipping Route. (contd).

Masters should be warned that this deviation from their toute is only to be made if absolutely necessary. If any ship is reported making such deviation N.C.S.O. at the next port of call is to make a full investigation.

Masters are to be made to realize the danger of mines again being laid off Cape Agulhas.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1524B/19).

GUINEA.

Mast 92. Your Mast 166. I have instructed Companhia begins:- To send Portugues Ship GUINEA to Freetown arriving about 30/12. She can carry approximately 330 passengers. Is a further ship required (?).
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1616/19 to Admty for M. of Shipping).

Belligerent ship in Argentine ports.

H.M. Ambassador has informed me Argentine Minister of Agriculture will issue this evening decree taking power to requisition as necessary belligerent ships taking refuge in Argentine ports with object (of) ? acquiring necessary tonnage to export Argentine products.
(B.N.A. Buenos Aires, 1847/19 to D.N.I).

Enemy Auxiliary.

Indication of enemy auxiliary on line 310° from Ascension on 18/12 this might have been in 001° N 027° W and be moving to meet Warship Raider. HERMES and Force L including PRETORIA CASTLE to proceed and search through J.35 (b) and in I 35 area on Western edge of Cape - U.K. route and possible fuelling areas then through J. 35 to St. Helena for fuel. NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE after searching as directed in my 1531/18 proceed and search through H.34 and I 34 areas on South America St. Vincent and Freetown route and possible fuelling areas. Then to Freetown for fuel when required.
(C. in C. S.A. 2015N/19 to S.O. Force M. HERMES.).

/NEWCASTLE.....

MOST SECRET.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (continued).

NEWCASTLE.
ARNDALE.
ENTERPRISE.
CARNARVON CASTLE.

Proceed so as to pick up Oiler ARNDALE who arrives at South end of sea rendezvous "PERCIVAL" (between 024° 20'S. 044°10'W and 024° 55'S 045° 00'W) at daylight 21/12 and complete with fuel from ship at Lam or Pig. as quickly as possible. On completion leave ARNDALE at anchor to fuel ENTERPRISE and join me in position 025° W reporting expected time of arrival as soon as known and stating position of ARNDALE.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2115Z/18 to NEWCASTLE).

Oiler ARNDALE (?inside) position ('?PERCIVAL') and "LAM". She is fitted for stirrup fuellings with either five inch or 3½ inch hose. If possible without delay transfer CARNARVON CASTLE's ammunition to ARNDALE.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2117Z/18 to NEWCASTLE).

Mediterranean.

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid at 0300. 1 machine. 8 bombs all in sea.
(R.A. Alexandria 1316/19).

SYDNEY.

Admty 0120/15. Before proceeding necessary for SYDNEY to have her rudder repaired, estimated time about 8 days. Intended to dock her at Malta about 23/12 (C. in C. Med 1233/19).
(Note Sydney is proceeding to Australia).

Dodecanese.

My 2214/13. Please confirm RHODES and KOS were intended in your 1651/11.
(D.N.I 0012/19 to C. in C. Med).
(Note:- Answered affirmatively by C. in C. Med. 2011/16 recd in Admty 1333/19).

Operation B.S.

Operational S/M Sanctuary in force in area 033° 08'N 013° 06'E 000°22-36 for one S/M from 0001/20 T.O.O.
(V.A. Malta 0809/19).

Cased M/t for Egypt.

Following for Sir Edward Beatty, Arrangements for assembly of cased M/T on arrival Egypt necessitate majority of ships passing through Suez Canal. Loading of India cargo in these ships means either inconvenient and slow discharge at Suez or incurring heavy expense for canal dues. Request every endeavour be made to make up separate shipment of India cargo not in same vessels as cased M/T for Egypt. If this cannot be arranged, confine India cargo to as few ships as possible Agree to military.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1045/19 to N.O.I.C. ? Haifa).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Air Report, Libya.

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY No. 192. up to 1200/19. Night 17/18 Dec. 9 Blenheims bombed enemy M.T. vehicles on road between Bardia and Tobruk. Day 18/12 No bombing operations. Hurricane offensive patrols covering our advanced troops and ships discharging at Sollum shot down 1 S. 79 in flames. Reconnaissance of coast revealed no movements between Bardia and Tobruk but 500 vehicles seen inside Bardia defences.

Greece. Day 18/12. Offensive reconnaissance Valona harbour by 3 Blenheims located large numbers of enemy shipping. Bombs fell near seaplance hangars setting 1 warehouse on fire. 1 Sunderland searched eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1147/19).

Fulmer Convoy.

A.282 19/12. Following signal from Takoradi is repeated for your information. A. 789 18/12. Third Fulmar Convoy left for Lagos en route Aboukir 1315 G.M.T. Expected time of arrival Aboukir 23/12. Time of origin 1330/18.
(Air Ministry 1200/19 to Admty).

Operations Communique.

Intend issuing following press communique
Units of Mediterranean Fleet carried out a sweept into the Adriatic on night of 18th/19th/12 to afford support to the Greeks. Advance forces swept up to a line joining Bari and Durazzo. Meanwhile units of the battle fleet bombarded the port and military establishments of Valona. Enemy batteries did not return fire until after the withdrawal began, firing only a few rounds. No enemy warships or merchant ships were found at sea during these operations.
(ii) One of our S/M's reports sinking on 13-14/12 one and possibly 2 laden merchant ships off Cape Spartivento, despite their escort and also a large laden southbound tanker off Cape Colonne on night of 15-16/12.
(iii) Off the coast of Libya, naval units and supporting units have been working in coOoperation with the Army and R.A.F. Sollum was bombarded as necessary to assist the army in its capture and similar support is now being given against Bardia. On 17/12 a close range attack was made inside Bardia Harbour during which 2 small ships were left sinking (CinC Med 1232/19 Admty

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

NARVAL (lost) books compromised.

All books held by French Submarine NARVAL must be considered compromised.

UPRIGHT
REGENT.

UPRIGHT is not to proceed to area T U but is to be ordered to operate in area South of 36° 00'N and West of 13° 00'E leaving area not earlier than p.m./22 to arrive at Malta a.m/24 REGENT is to be ordered to leave area Q.10 operate to south of latitude 33° 00' crossing that latitude p.m./22 to arrive Malta a.m./23. These instructions to submarines considered sufficiently broad to be safe to venture in compromised cypher. Warn all submarines at sea that their books are compromised. (C. in C. Med 1235/19 to V.A. Malta).

Destroyer Reliefs.

When AVON VALE, FARNDALE, SILVERTON, and BRIDGE are ready for service and worked up they will be sailed to the Red Sea to relieve K class destroyers. They will be fitted for tropical service. K. class destroyers should then relieve HURDIAN and MOHAWK who should rejoin the Home Fleet. N class destroyers will be sailed to reinforce Mediterranean Fleet in accordance with my 2309/8.
(D.O.D. (H) 1306/19 to C. in C's).

Boom Defences.

Your 1247/14 Following Boom Defence Stores shipped in NALGURA, sailed 8/12. Additional five cables of A/T double will be shipped early January and further supplies as stores become available. ATREUS has sufficient material for two controlled minefields.
(D.B.D. 1658/19 to C. in C. Med).

Sollum Defences.

Information just received from 202 group indicates two or three new gun emplacements in grid reference 52233375.
(R.A.I. 1715/19 to N.O.I.C. Sollum).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Malta Air Report.

Combined Services report Malta to 1700/19. All times G.M.T. 0714 - 1545 Sunderland on reconnaissance Western Ionian Sea for enemy naval and commercial units. Nil report. 0735 - 1231 Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Naples for naval and commercial units. One cruiser in dry dock - 9 M/V's over 5000 tons and some fleet auxiliaries. 2 M/V's 10,000 tons anchored outside harbour entrance. 0812 - 1223 Glenn Matin photographic reconnaissance Tarento. Outer Harbour one battleship and eight M/V's over 5000 tons. Inner harbour twon cruisers and several small M/V's and fleet auxiliaries. Night 18/19, 2225 2255 two separate raiders approached from the north. First raider dropped six bombs in sea off Grand harbour and left before illuminated by searchlights. Second raider dropped 4 bombs in sea and 2 others on land near Tigne. This raider was picked up by searchlights - identified S 79 and shot down in flames into sea by Hurricane. No damage or casualties by bombs. A.A. did not engage as fighter on patrol. No enemy survivors. 0045 - 0050 a.m. enemy aircraft approached from the north but turned back 15 miles from the island. Probably searching for destroyed aircraft. One Hurricane no interception. 2015, 1 Wellington despatched to attack Tripoli and report on weather conditions for larger attack. Unable to reach objective due weather. Operation cancelled. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta 1720/19).

Valona bombed.

Operational Summary No. 35 A.M./19 9 aircraft No. 84 Squadron despatched on offensive recco., 6 to Valona 3 to Krionero. At Valona 11 ships seen in harbour. Much movement Terpelene to Valona Road towards Valona. Bombs dropped buildings North part of town, barracks, petrol dump and M.T. park, smoke seen from petrol dump and barracks. Only 2 Blenheims reached Drionero as 1 returned engine trouble. 7 ships seen in harbour. A direct hit was scored on road and some buildings North part of town, barracks, petrol dump and M.T. park, smoke seen from petrol dump and barracks. Only 2 Blenheims reached Krionero as 1 returned engine trouble. 7 ships seen in harbour. A direct hit was scored on road and some buildings set on fire

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Fast Personnel Convoys.

Admty 2324/14/11 and S.O. Force H. 2105/7/12. Requested you will signal your remarks as soon as practicable. The convoy would be in the order of 12 ships with a speed of 15 knots. (D.O.D. (f) 1842/19 to C. in C. Med).

Since 1842/19 from Admiralty states speed of convoy is 15 knots my 2105/7 does not appear to apply. (S.O. Force H. 2359/19 to C. in C. Med).

REGENT.

Leave area G. and operate to South of 033°North. (V.C. Malta 1921/19 to REGENT).

OTUS.

Return to Alexandria forthwith, arrive Sanctuary 0600/20. (Capt S.I. 2257/19 to OTUS).

Operations "Hide". "Seek".

Following is outline of operation "HIDE", involving passage of MALAYA, two M/T ships and five destroyers (Force F) to Gibraltar.
Four destroyers of Force (H) (Group 2) leave Gibraltar for Eastward a.m./20 at economical speed, carrying out A/S sweep en route.
Remainder of Force (H) (Group 1) leave Gibraltar p.m./20 making feint to the westwards until after dark unless weather forecast necessitates earlier start.
Groups 1 and 2 rendezvous South of Balearic Islands 21/12, and weather permitting Group 2 proceeding night 21-22, to carry out operation "SKSK", which is moonlight and dawn search of area West of Skerki Bank to cover Force F between Skorki (?Channel) and 0900/22 rendezvous. (S.O. Force H, 2325/19 to C.in C. Med.).

MOST SECRET.

19.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CARTHAGE. To leave Durban a.m. 21/12 to patrol 030° S., 034° E., and 022° S., 040° E., to give cover to shipping; to leave later position p.m. 24/12 and proceed Colombo to arrive (date) Will arrive Bombay for docking and refit (date)
(C.in C. E.I. 1128Z/19 to CARTHAGE).

DAUNTLESS. At dusk 19/12 to proceed Penang at 15 knots unless otherwise ordered by C.in C. China. (C.in C. E.I. 1126Z/19 to Force V).

Destroyers. Reliefs for "K" Class. (See Mediterranean 1306/19).

CAPETOWN. APPLELEAF. On completion of fuelling CAPETOWN to proceed on a course 270 from Addu Atoll at 12 knots until dusk 21/12 to give cover to shipping and then proceed Colombo through equatorial channel so as to arrive Colombo A.M.24/12. APPLELEAF is to leave Addu Atoll for Colombo on 22/12 as arranged by CAPETOWN so that cover to APPLELEAF is given on passage. (C.in C. E.I. 1404Z/19 to Force V).

Aden Air Report. Summary 190 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500/19. 6 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escort three for convoy one and three for convoy Q/4A. Three Blenheims 203 Squadron carried out A.S. patrols covering latter convoy. Seven of these aircraft used advanced base Kamaran, three remaining overnight. 0338 to 0510 one Blenheim 8 Squadron searched Gulf of Aden for Tanker reported drifting with engines U/S. Tanker found being towed by tug. 0120 unidentified enemy aircraft believed one S.79 approached and encircled Aden remaining outside S.L. ring. One Gladiator 94 Sqdn., took off but made no interception through lack of S.L. location partly due cloud. Only two rounds indirect A.A. About seven bombs in East South and West. Seven H.E. and some incendiaries North of Sheikh Othman. Two flares used. No damage or casualties.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1553/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Free French Movement.

From De Schompre for De Gaulle No.36. Administrateur Adjoint De 2 Eme Classe, who is in Pondichery to join me here and he in charge or propaganda and broadcast either in Batavia or here.
(C.in C. China, 0533Z/19 to Adty).

Far East Aerodromes protection.

Following for Chiefs of Staff. Preliminary investigation into problem of Aerodrome defence am not satisfied with the present scale of protection. Aerodromes in Singapore are less well protected than aerodromes in India. As an immediate measure to improve this G.O.C. Malaya is taking over the external defence of Seletar, although this can only be done at the expense of troops available for the Defence of the Island and Johore. This reinforces need for a few Battalions for static duties. Indian States force or territorial battalions would be suitable therefore request permission to deal direct with India regarding provision of these battalions.
(Easfar, 0721/19 to Air Ministry).

America and West Indies.

SIBONEY, M.Lesto.

Re Jean Lesto, passenger in U.S. SIBONEY from Lisbon to U.S.A. with plans for increasing production of Ford lorries for Germany in France. (N.A. Madrid to S.O.(I) Bermuda 1130/19).

SALISBURY
RICHMOND
NEWPORT.

Expect to sail from St. John's on 23/12. Route to Belfast. (F.O.S.B.S. 1058/19 to Adty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 19.12.40. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

LEOPOLDVILLE. LEOPOLDVILLE will sail 18/12 for Halifax with the personnel on board. (details) Homewards vessel will be used for berth passengers and cargo, operating line being C.P.R. Presume you will embark 200 troops for passage U.K. in accordance with your 1601/16.
(D.S.T. 0300/19 to H.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

NEW NORTHLAND. C.in C. South Atlantic 1711/18. Please make necessary reply. Ample warning of intended sailing of NEW NORTHLAND must be given to enable route for passage arrangements to be settled. D. of S.T. 0129/6/12, refers.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa), (1046/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Town Class Destroyers. SALISBURY RICHMOND NEWPORT sailed 19/12 for St. John's N.F.
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1446/19).

PORPOISE. My 2341/22/11. PORPOISE is to be sailed if possible with H.X.98.
(D.O.D.(H) 1626/19 to R.A.3.B.S.)

Your 1626/19. Regret weather damage to PORPOISE precludes sailing before H.X. 99. Four W/T generators flooded and gun out of action. Some damage due to reloading torpedoes breaking loose.
(F.O.3.B.S. 1614/19 to Adty).

New Zealand.

U.S.8. ACHILLES escorting New Zealand portion of convoy U.S.8. consisting of H.T. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DOMINION MONARCH left Wellington 1930Z/19 for Sydney, expected time of arrival 1800Z/22.
(S.O.(I) Wellington. 2040Z/19 to Adty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MORDERNEY. Para reports completed loading 1000 tons bunker coal. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1207Z/19).

LA PLATA. German ship LA PLATA sailed 2245 tonight. (Consul, Vigo, 2316/19).

TARONGA, potential raiders. My 0159/20 and 1747/7 (Wilhelmsen ships fitting out as raiders) a further report (C.3) states that another Wilhelmsen Line ship is fitting out as A.M.C. Motor ship TARONGA 7003 tons gross, 20 knots, in raider trim.
(D.N.I. 1836/19 to C.in C's).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CLIZIA AVILES. Arrival CLIZIA, AVILAQUE (as received, AVILES ?) from Gijon 18/12 for laying up. (Gijon T.H.I., 1840/19).

DERNA. Left 18/12 for Genoa. (Barcelona, 1814/19).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

LORRAINE) VENDEMIAIRE) Passed Gibraltar eastward, destination unknown. (F.O.C.H.A., 0931/19).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

AMICUS

(British, 3660 tons), torpedoed 54° 10' N., 15° 50' W. at 1814/19. (Valentia Radio, recd. 2037)
Torpedoed 54° 10' N., 15° 50' W. (Plymouth recd. 1919/19)
Torpedoed 54° 10' N. 15° 15' W. apparently for 15° 50' W. at 1914. Investigate (C.in C. W.A. 1930/19 to WESTCOTT).
Sailed tug SHAMAN to assistance of AMICUS torpedoed in 54° 10' N., 15' 50° W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2104/19).

SAN CHARLES (sunk 16/12)

Reported on good authority Spanish Ship SAN CARLES was sunk by gunfire from unknown submarine at 2000/16 on passage from Cape Juby to South of Isle Fuerteventura, crew picked up by Spanish Steamer and landed here yesterday evening. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1155/19).
Note by N.I.D.:-
The only Spanish Vessel of this name is one of 223 tons belonging to Jose Trujillo Alamo of Santander. This is not one of the shipping lines mentioned in the orders to Italian Submarine Commanders re sinking Spanish ships.

NAPIER STAR.

Your 1915/18 and my 2315/18. (No trace War Registry) No trace NAPIER STAR or survivors. Intend to continue search until dark Friday 20/12 and then return to harbour. Wind S.S.W. force 7 visibility poor.
(CALDWELL, 2105/19 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X.90.

An analysis of the submarine attack on H.X.90 indicates a possibility that the route from 35° West to the R/V with local escort may have been compromised.
It is appreicated that this is highly improbable but owing to great importance of the matter it is requested that you will investigate.
(D.T.D. 1858/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Your 1540/17. Following is report of signal officer on my staff after interview with W/T operator of S.S. CARDITA.

ROTORUA (sunk 11/12)

W/T operator states that during forenoon 9/12 ROTORUA asked CARDITA by V/S if she was fitted with short wave transmitter. On 10/12 between 1030 and 1100 zone plus 1 ROTORUA passed message of 30 groups M.N. code by light to CARDITA for transmission on short wave. No time of origin was received so 1100/10 was added.

/ CARDITA .....

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

CARDITA called Portishead Radio G K A at 1245 G.M.T. on 24 metres delay being due to temporary defect in W/T transmitter G.K.D. answered at 1302 G.M.T. when message from CARDITA secret call sign MRSN and repeated due to fading R was received from G.K.D. at 1320 G.M.T. At end of message W/T operator made in P/L 'received by lamp' to indicate office of origin since from VAYP CDE 30" was also made before the text.
No other signal was received in W/T office from ROTORUA and operator has no knowledge of message 0939/11 referred to but a distress message was made for ROTORUA at 1339/11 G.M.T. W/T operator has been told that P/L is not to be used except in emergency and correct procedure explained. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1904/19 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

0334. D.F. bearings received, transmission probably originated from U-boat, considered impossible to estimate her position. (D.D.I.C. 0832/19).

1210. D.F. probable U-boat 58° N. to 58° 30'N., 19° to 21° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1256/19).

1310. Number of Home Guard reported S/M from Taytallich Loch Sween. Stated was in view 30 mins., conning tower painted grey. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2005/19 to Admty.)

1637. D.F. bearings indicate you may have been sighted by a U-boat. (D.D.I.C. 1709/19 to S.O. Force H).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 still patrolling to westward of Madeira Azores area patrol continued probably by relief boat or boats.
4 in N.W. Approaches on or to eastward of 20° W. between 53° N. and 57° 30'N. 1 of which was about 54° N. and one 57° N.
A.M./18.

German.
Very vague indications from area south of Cape de Verde Islands west of Sierra Leone.
Doubtful indications of one approaching N.W. Approaches from South and another from North possibly now about 60° N. 12 degs.W.
1 north of 55°N. east of 15 degs.W.
S. or S.E. of Rockall.
1 in 59° 05' N. 23° 13' W. at 1930/18, may move to southward.
1 in about 59° N. 18° W. at 1543/18 probably also attacked DALFONN at 1841/18 in same position.
1 about 60°N. 20°W.
(D.D.I.C. 1209/19.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

The Home Fleet returned to Scapa at 0930 this morning from a Practice Cruise to the westward.

It has been decided that a second submarine is to accompany homeward-bound H.X.Convoys in future, and SEAWOLF is to be sailed for Halifax for this duty as soon as possible.

Two more TOWN class Destroyers are to be manned by Norwegians who will take them over during January; and, pending the finding of a Board of Inquiry into the loss of BRANLEBAS, C. in C., W.A., recommends that Ships of her class should not be allowed to proceed to sea.

An unidentified Aircraft was plotted at 1242 today about 25 miles West of Hoy steering East. The Aircraft maintained this course along the North shore of Pentland Firth where it was sighted for an instant by a section of our Fighters on patrol, and then disappeared to the eastward of Sandwick in South Ronaldsay. At 1907 another Enemy Aircraft flew low over the Shipwash; and at about 2100 tonight the L.M.S. Mail Steamer HIBERNIA was attacked by an aircraft while entering Kingston Harbour and thus well inside Irish territorial waters. A German seaplane flew yesterday over the rooftops of Rosslare.

In the Sheerness area, the Swashway is not to be used by shipping until further orders, though a swept channel 3 cables wide from a Medway Channel Buoy to No 1 Yantlet Buoy may be used. Sweeping was carried out during the day in the Dover area, off Harwich, and ahead of convoy W.N. 55. from Kinnaird Head to Cruden Bay.

/C. in C.,.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands-Contd.

C. in C., Nore reports that the S.A. gear cannot be considered satisfactory until it is able to detonate Acoustic Mines at a greater distance from the sweeper than is now possible.

VETERAN and VERITY were in collision last night. Both were anchored this morning off Moville, VERITY holed and her engine-room flooded and VETERAN with her stern slightly damaged, and both reported unfit for sea.

Shipping

Convoys

It is proposed to amend the cycle of convoys to provide for 2 H.X. convoys. 1 S.C. convoy, 1 S.L. convoy and 1 H.G. convoy and 3 O.B. convoys, 1 O.B. (S) convoy, and 1 O.G. convoy, sailing every 10 days. The 2 H.X. convoys would sail alternately at 4 and 6 day intervals.

Operations Against Vichy French

The C.O. of KINGSTON TOPAZ (armed boarding vessel) reports that he closed the French SS COMPIEGNE when she left Lisbon to test the reaction of the French destroyer BRESTOIS, who was cruising in the vicinity. When the latter realised that was happening he bore down on KINGSTON TOPAZ with all guns cleared away.
Note- this refers to question of interception of French ships.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Fuelling at Sea

Senior Officer Force H reports that he had just reached position N.E. of Azores when recalled. This area is unsuitable for oiling at sea owing to long heavy swell. Area S. of St. Miguel reported by SHEFFIELD 4 days out of five, unsuitable.

UPHOLDER
USK
UNIQUE

Three submarines are on way to Gibraltar.

Convoy W.S. 5 A

Troop Convoy W.S. 5 A fast, of 5 ships has sailed.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE

CARNARVON CASTLE arrived at Capetown today after her action with a German raider on 5/12.

TRIBESMAN

British SS TRIBESMAN 6242 tons due at Durban from U.K. 15/12 is overdue (see East Indies, SS LORNATON)

Mediterranean

MALAYA

MALAYA, with 3 destroyers, 1 A/A ship and 2 troopships arrived Malta 0230 and sailed p.m. to rendezvous with Force H (RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 6 destroyers) off Galita Is. (coast of Tunis)

Force H.

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar 0930/20.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

LORNASTON — British SS LORNASTON, 4934 tons, due at Durban 16/12, from Fremantle, is overdue (see South Atlantic, SS TRIBESMAN)

Convoy M.S. 4 B — 10 troop transports for Middle East escorted by SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE, left Durban on 0900/16.

Patrols — CERES (cruiser) is leaving Mombasa to patrol off Kismayu (Ital. Somaliland) and to rendezvous with COLOMBO (cruiser) which is to proceed to Mombasa.

China

Protection of Trade — C. in C., states that present resources are so limited that he can do little more than provide intermittent cover for trade on Achin Head (Sumatra) area.

German Merchant Ships

REGENSBURG — REGENSBURG, 8068 tons, which had been at Yokohama since war began, left there this afternoon.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20. 12. 40.

Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Use of Red Cross by Italian Aircraft.

The Italians have given notice that certain of their aircraft are marked on their fuselage and wings with red crosses contained within red circles. H.M. Government have warned the Italians that immunity will only be accorded to such aircraft when solely engaged in transporting wounded by air and that they cannot be permitted to fly near allied territory or ships or over areas of sea which are the theatre of operations. Accordingly any Italian aircraft bearing red cross markings.

(a) which come within range of H.M Ships or of coastal anti-aircraft defences are to be fired on;

(b) which are encountered by British Aircraft in the vicinity of, or approaching British, Allied, or Egyptian territory or ships are to be attacked. (V.C.N.S.0110/20/(A.M. 624A.)

H.X. Homeward Convoys.

My 2341/22/11. It has been decided that a second Submarine is to accompany homeward-bound H.X. Convoys. SEVERN should be detailed and sailed for Halifax as soon as available.(V.C.N.S. 1752/20 to V.A.S.)

Loch Ewe.

Your 1551/20/9. Only vessel at Aultbea capable of maintaining Patrol at entrance of Loch Ewe in winter months is H.M.Drifter FAIRWEATHER which must refuel at Stornoway every 2 weeks. If Patrol to be maintained request another armed Drifter be allocated to Aultbea.(A.C.O.S. 1956/20 to Adty.)

PUNJABI.

Should rejoin C. in C. H.F. on return of KIPLING and KELVIN from duty with Convoy W.S. 5A. (A.C.N.S.H. 2137/20 to C. in C.W.A.

2 more TOWN-class Destroyers to be manned by Norwegians.

1. It has been agreed with the Norwegian Authorities that 2 more TOWN class destroyers should be manned by Norwegians. They are prepared to take them over in January.

2. In order that training may be arranged, you are requested to select 2 ships for the purpose which will complete repairs towards the end of January stating the dates when they should be ready to commission. (2nd. S.L. 2214/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

BRANLEBAS-class Destroyers. 78. My 2055/16. Board of Enquiry is being held to report on loss of BRANLEBAS, on seaworthiness of this class of ship and to make recommendations as to future employment.

Recommend that for the present they should not be allowed to proceed to sea.
(C. in C. W.A. 2321/20 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 0630/20.(D.C. 0700/20.)
At 1130/20.(D.C.1140/20.)
At 2330/20.(D.C. 2356/20.)

Movements.

MANCHESTER. Arrived Scapa. (F.O.C.O.S.0404/20.)
EDINBURGH.
NIGERIA.
EGLINTON, Arrived 0937.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0948/20.)
QUORN.
NELSON.
HOOD. Arrived Scapa 0930.(A.C.O.S. 1040/20.)
REPULSE.
ARETHUSA.
COSSACK,
TARTAR.
ESCAPADE.
DOUGLAS.
BRILLIANT.
SIKH.
ELECTRA.
ECLIPSE.
BEAGLE,
BULLDOG.
ROCKINGHAM, Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1237/20.)
STANLEY.
NIGERIA, Arrived Scapa 1150.(A.C.O.S.1250/20.)
AURORA.

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1442/20.)

CLEVELAND. Arrived Sheerness 1200 (C. in C. Nore
BERKELEY. 1646/20.)

SCIMITAR. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1936/20.)

MOOLTAN. Adty. 1645/7 and C. in C. W.A. 1855/29.
Leaves Clyde unescorted at 1200/21 for Tyne and Methil. Route.C.in C. Rosyth requested to arrange onward route from Methil and for Fighter cover throughout.(F.O.C.N.F.2330/20

(to MOOLTAN.-)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (Cont'd)
~~Defence of U.K.~~

PUNJABI, JERSEY, JUPITER. Sailed Plymouth 1700. (C. in C. W.A. 2358/20.

Force K. F.O.C. Force K reports his speed 20 knots from 0503/19. (C. in C. H.F. 0930/20 to Adty.)

VULCAN. Adty. 1744/18. Should be sailed when ready in F.S. Convoy to Southend for onward routeing to Portsmouth.(C. in C. Nore 2050/20 to BEEHIVE.)

Operations.

Western Patrol. 615 DERBYSHIRE proceed to Area H 2 and patrol H 2 and F 2 in an anticlockwise direction remaining in each area 24 hours. My 1040/19 CAMITO carry out sweep in area Q. 3. R. 3. S. 3 leaving 1200/23 and resume patrol originally ordered in 1920/16 commencing on arrival Q1.F.O C N A to sail CIRCASSIA when ready for areas Q 3. R 3. S 3. to be patrolled in anti-clockwise direction remaining in each area 24 hours commencing on arrival Q 3.(F.O.C.N.P. 0200/20 to Western Patrol.)

Iceland. The only ship available for transporting military personnel round Iceland is small Norwegian Coasting ship designed for service in Fiords. This ship is not safe in weather now being experienced. Strongly urge Ministry of Shipping be requested to provide Ocean going ship of good engine power capable of carrying 150 officers and men to East and North Coast in safety.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1637/20 to Adty.)

Northern and Western Patrols. I.N.P. No. 3. Patrol areas are to be extended on the same scale to the Southward and letter numbered T1, T2, T3, U1, U2, U3, and V1 and V2. U3 is to extend to Southward to coast.(F.O.C.N.P. 2220/20 to N.P. and WP)

Proposed Operation. F.O.I.C. Iceland 1307/13/12 to Adty. Suggest preferable to find Personnel from U.K. (Alabaster 1342/20 to War Office)
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

O.21. Intend carry out submerged Torpedo Trials 4 miles South of Bell Rock from 1100/22. Request you report weather at 0700/22 and whether above R/V suitable for Trials. (S.9. 1001/20 to WHITE BEAR.)

PROTEUS. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1123/20.)

TIGRIS. Intend sail escorted by STELLA POLARIS from Rothesay at 1000/21 for near Wolf Rock and thence unescorted to patrol. (S.2. 1519/20.)
Estimate off Wolf Rock 0600/23, thence to 47° 42' N. 6° 9' W. to patrol in Bay of Biscay North Zone. (S.2. 1521/20.)

L. 23. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1551/20.).

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1551/20.)

SEAWOLF. Trawler KINGSTON AGATE will R/V with you in 50° 31' N. 0° 40' W. at 0845/21.(S.S.1803/20.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/21.(V.A.S. 1853/20.)

H.33. Will be exercising with A/C between 1500 and 2300/21 within 10 miles of 56° N. 7° W. and may be unescorted. Ships to keep clear. (C. in C.W.A. 1942/20.)

British Air Activity.

Offensive Patrol, of Norwegian Coast. Your 1851/19 approved. (A.C.O.S. 0027/20 to Hatston.) Intend to send 4 Skuas leaving Hatston 1100 today. (Hatston 1010/20 to A.C.O.S.) All A/C returned to base without reaching objectives owing to lack of cloud cover. (Hatston 1430/20).

Patrols. Patrols today HORNLI, STAB, S.9., FAIR by moonlight.(C. in C. Rosyth 0752/20.
Routine Summary at 0800/20 for 15,16, and 18 Groups. (H.C.C.C. 0853/20.)
4 Blenheims will sweep area 59°15'N.1° W, 56° 45N. 1° W on track 065° to depth of 160 miles from about 1500, returning Dyce at dusk.(C. in C. Rosyth 1304/20.)

MOST SECRET.

20. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Following A/S. Patrol VIKING will be flown daily during daylight hours. 2 circuits of cross-over. 59° 30' N. 0° 42' E., 61° N. 1°18'E.,61°N.0°42'E, 59° 30' N. 1° 18' E. (C. in C. Rosyth 1450/20 to C. in C. H.F.)
Summary of Operations. 2 Routine A/S Patrols. 1 surface R/C to West and 1 to East. 1 A/S sweep to East for H.M. ships. Area covered 23°W.to 9 W. (200 Group 1710/20 to Air Ministry.)
My 1758/19. Patrol FAIR is not being flown tonight. (C. in C. Rosyth 1850/20 to C. in C. H. F.)

Night Flying in Firth of Forth. C. in C. Rosyth 1525/18 and Crail 1905/17. Agree local night flying within 5 miles of Crail and 3 miles of Dunino may be carried out without I.F.F. and without W/T so far as local air defences are concerned.(H.Q.F.C. 1215/20 to Air Ministry.

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's in No. 1. Basin. Alternative Target the Naval Dockyard at Brest.(H.Q.C.C.1507/20.)

Brest. 53 and 59 Sqdns., to attack tonight Power Station, Naval Dockyard, and Shipping in Brest. Alternative Target the Oil-Tanks at Cherbourg.(H.Q.C.C.1508/20.)

Wilhelmshaven. 22 Sqdn. to attack tonight TIRPITZ in Vauhafen.(H.Q.C.C.1509/20.)

Air Decoys. A.M. 1148/7 and Commander Blunt's 1007/13. Request C.E. in C. Bath and DEE. may be directed to put following work in hand.(C. in C. W.A. 2205/20 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

ISOLDA sunk. Great Western S.S. ST.PATRICK, reports the sinking of the Irish T.H.K. ISOLDA by German plane on 19/12 inside territorial waters close to Rosslare. Six killed several wounded. On the 18th a German plane attacked the British Tanker OSAGE close to the ARKLOW lightship. This ship was first machine gunned which put her steering gear out of action then three bombs burst close to ship under water and sank her. Crew safe. On December 19th a German seaplane flew over the rooftops of Rosslare.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1047/20 to Adty.)

OSAGE (Br.Tanker). 1010 Tons.) sunk.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C. over Pentland Firth. At 1242 an unidentified aircraft was plotted about 25 miles west of Hoy steering 090 degrees height 10,000 feet. The aircraft reduced height to 5,000 feet maintaining its course over the north shore of the Pentland Firth until over Sandwick in South Ronaldsay. Here it altered course to 070 degrees and at 1321 the plot faded at about 70 miles. While over the Pentland Firth the aircraft was sighted by a section of Fighters on patrol but contact was immediately lost and the aircraft remained unidentified. (A.C.O.S. 1641/20 and Scapa W/T 1910/20.)

Convoy WN. 55. Attacked by one Float Plane at 1720 in 58°N. 2°8'W. No damage.(CURACOA 1858/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Shipwash. Low-flying Enemy A/C reported by Gunsites as flying over Shipwash from 1907 to 1915. Not reported by any Patrols nor plotted by C.H.L. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1944/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

HIBERNIA. N.O.I.C. Holyhead report following from L.M.S. Mail Steamer HIBERNIA Holyhead to Kingstown attacked by E/A at about 2100 tonight while entering Kingstown, well inside territorial waters. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2224/20 to Adty.)

A/C.gives correct Recognition Signal. A/C. met by A/A Barrage at 2330 fired one red three white stars followed by correct Recognition Signal.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2340/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining.

INTREPID. Sailed 0915. E.T.A. Humber 1500/20. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0933/20.)

Z.M.E.8. Intend leave Milford Haven tonight, lay at 2230, return on completion about 0045. (ADVENTURE 0940/20.) Operation completed. (ADVENTURE 2307/20.)

Sheerness. Group Officer in Force reports Explosion at 0920/20 in 135 Outer Bar Buoy 7 cables.(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1111/20.)

MOST SECRET.

20. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

INTREPID. Minieg. ~~Hob defect~~ in stern tube inner bush. Will probably require docking. Request dockyard assistance.(D.20. 1918/20 to F.O. Humber.-)

LANCASTER. Intense condensation and serious electric lighting defects. Following work proposed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0005/20 to Adty.).

PROFICIENT. (Motor Drifter) Stranded on Whitby Sands 200 Yards North of West Pier. Crew of 4 landed safely. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0520/20 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

VETERAN. VERITY. VETERAN and VERITY in collision last night VERITY holed and engine room flooded. VETERAN slightly damaged in stern. Neither ship fit for sea. Both ships now anchored off Moville. Further details will be signalled when known.(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0903/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

HILDINA. METHIL HILL. Collision between H.M. Trawler HILDINA and S.S. METHIL HILL 648 tons at Methil 1810/19 in 090° St. Abb's Head 2 miles HILDINA returned to Granton under own power and beached for examination. Damage to bow possibly fractured stem post. METHIL HILL brought into Leith by Tugs with damaged bow. (N.O.I.C. Leith. 1045/20 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

S.A. Gear. Mining. Contd.
956. Out of the mines detonated by both A and C type of S.A. gear a proportion, including the last three swept, have detonated at about 30 yards from the sweeper. In addition to damage to material the shock to personnel is severe and it is asking almost too much of the crews to continue sweeping under these conditions. It has been suggested that this may be due to mines with weak batteries but the S.A. gear cannot be considered satisfactory until means is found to detonate all accoustic mines at a greater distance.
(C. in C. Nore 1138/20 to Adty.).

Newhaven. P.W.S.S. reports heavy Explosion about 125° at 1147.(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1153/20 to Adty) Explosion caused by Time Bomb at Friston.(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1154/20 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary. C. in C. Nore 1949/13 and my 113/19. Swashway is not to be used until further orders. Swept channel 3 cables wide to East of line from No. 3. Medway Channel Buoy to No. 1. Yantlet Buoy may be used.(Cdre. Sheerness 1302/20).

Dover Area. Sweeping carried out to 0800/20. In Q.Z.S.105. A buoy to No. 4 buoy channel extended one cable to westwards 75%. No. 4 buoy to Sandhead buoy channel swept 75%. One mine. Ten sweps cut by explosive cutters two cutters swept up. (V.A. Dover 1432/20 to Adty.)

Harwich. Intend sailing 5 Fleet Sweepers at 1600 today to search 117 Q.Z.S. starting at South Falls at 0500/21.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1437/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

Sweep off Peterhead. Intend commencing experimental M/S searching ahead of W.N. 55 due Kinnaird Head North 5' approx. 2030/20/12. 19th M/S Group R/V 5' North Kinnaird Head at 1900/20/12, and search war channel until Cruden Bay 090 degrees 6' then return to Peterhead.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1609/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.).

INTREPID. Arrived 1620. (F.O. Humber 1621/20.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Acoustic Mines. Precautions. A case has occurred of a destroyer causing an acoustic mine to explode whilst turning with one engine ahead and the other astern, in order to straighten up before proceeding through the boom gate. It is most important to maintain a steady speed when passing through waters where acoustic mines are likely to exist. It is equally important that ships should not be delayed when approaching the gate thus causing them to get broadside on or drift out of the channel.(C. in C. Nore 1656/20.)

Milford Haven. At 1155 M/S Trawler COURTIER detonated a Type C Mine in 230° 11½ cables from Great Castle Head Lower Light.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1808/20.)

Granton. At 1253 M/S Trawler STAR OF BRITAIN detonated a Type B Mine in 56° 2' 54" N. 3° 13' W.(Cdr. M/S. Granton 1825/20.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Ushant. At 0610/20 an 8000 Ton M/V in 48° 46'N. 4° 18'W, proceeding Westerly at speed. A/C. report. (H.Q.B.C. 1935/20.)

Casualties & Defects.

DORADE II. Examination Vessel P.O. Milford 1525/17. Arrived Oban 1230/20 with engine and deck defects. No facilities for repair at Oban. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1530/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

CAMITO. Paravane bracket badly damaged. Can complete patrol but not advisable to return North in present condition. Request arrangements be made to proceed to Gibraltar on completion of patrol for removal of bracket thence proceeding without paravane protection.
(CAMITO 1905/20 to F.O.C.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.

20.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B. 261. My 1215/19. BENRINNES, ADVISER and BARRISTER sailed in O.B.261 at 2046/19. (A.S.O., Admty., to C.S.15, 0015/20).

F.S.64. Departure Number 1200/20/12 RADIANT to join F.S.64 for Southend for onward routeing to Portsmouth (F.O. Number 1258/20)

S.L.57B. Arrived consisting of BECKENHAM escorted by YORK CITY (N.O.I.C. Barry, 1321/20).

W.N. 55. CURACOA, LONDONDERRY left Scapa 1300/20 for convoy W.N. 55. (A.C.O.S. 1400/20).

W.N. 58. Sailed A/S trawlers CAPE ARGONA, FOXTROT for W.N.58, e.t.a. 2100/20. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1420/20).

O.B. 264. Your 1156/17. Concur CRISPIN will be required for O.B. 264. (C.in C. W.A. 1542/20 to F.O.C.N.P.)

H.X.94 B. R/V with H.B.94 B. 053° 46' N., 006° 08'W. at 0100/21. (C.in C. W.A. 1544/20 to LEEDS UNITED).

F.N. 63. Departure Harwich 1545/20 SELKIRK for Grimsby with F.N.63. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1552/20).

H.X.93. LACONIA sailing as ocean escort returning to Halifax on completion. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1951/20).

S.L.S. 56. My 1139/18 inward route. Delete 054° 10'N., 021° 51'W. (V.A.N.P. 2150/20 to MARSDALE).

Convoys. Estimated positions 0900/20. (D.T.D., 1225/20).

O.B.263. Amending his 1900/17, (route).(N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 0939/20).

H.X.97. Date and route. Escort HEPATICA to U.K. WORCESTERSHIRE joins at sea and proceeds to Clyde. (D.T.D., 1147/20 to C.in C. W.A.)

F.N. 63. 1000/20. 25 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1244/20).

F.S. 65. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1507/20).

S.L. 57. Following arrived (List). (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 2245/20).

O.B.C. 262. Sailed 2058/20. List. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2335/20).

/ H.X. 91. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.91. Hove to for 48 hours, 5/12 much scattered. All now arrived except DIONYSSIS STATHATOS, abandoned, weather damage. (D.T.D. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1336/19).

F.S. 64. 30 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0946/20). Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1627/20).

O.B.M. 263. 1615/21. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 9. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1025/20).

F.N. 63. Left 1000/20 with COVENTRY CITY. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1144/20).

O.B. 261. Sailed Oban 0030/20. 11 ships. Escort COLUMBINE. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1206/20)

BEACONSFIELD to be diverted to Freetown for onward routeing. (D.T.D. 1900/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

F.N. and F.S. Forecast of sailings and escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth 1217/20).

H.X. 96. Amendment of route. (D.T.D., 1536/20 to KANPURA).

S.L. 57. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1559/20).

O.B.O. 262. Expect to sail 0145/21. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1604/20).

O.B. 264. 1300/24. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1707/20).

O.B. 262. Sailed 1130/20. 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1755/20) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1756/20).

F.S. 63. Arrived except STEPNEY. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1853/20).

O.B.O. 261. DOVERHILL destination changed to Savannah. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1901/20).

W.N. 58. 1400/22. Escorts CAPE ARGONA, FOXTROT, 8 ships. Code "Metric". (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1430/20).

E.N. 43. } E.N.44. } My 2305/19. Add includes tug RESTIVE for Campbeltown, departure HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth area, with E.N.44 (C.in C. Rosyth 2242/20).

/ 2 M.V's. CHESAPEAKE, KONGHANG.) .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

2 M.V's, CHESAPEAKE, KORDIANO

Your 1835/19 and C.in C. Portsmouth 1833/19. Arrived 0939/20. (N.O.S.O. Dartmouth 1228/20).

5 M.V's

Humber departure 1400/20. MOLLUSC escorting five Merchants ships to Tyne thence to Blyth.
(F.O. Humber 1405/20).

5 M.V's

My 1203 (no trace in War Reg.) sailed 5 M.V escorts A/S trawlers LORD ESSENDEN and RUBY.
(N.O.S.O. Dartmouth, 1751/20).

H.G. 48.

After passing through 53° 20'N. 15° 30'W. H.G. 48 to steer for 55° 00' N., 12°20'W. thence by route ordered. (C.in C. W.A. 0703/20 to Deptford)
If contact not made with AMICUS by 1100/20 intend joining H.G. 48.
(WESTCOTT, 0945/20 to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X.84.

Expected to arrive Oban with GREY COUNTY and ORAN 1200/20. MALLOW escorting B portion, NORTHERN DAWN, WELLARD have not been in company.
(SCIMITAR 0449/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

Nil.

My 0440/20. Have picked up WOENSCRECHT For ORAN read VARAND.
(SCIMITAR 0915/20).

C.W.20.

My 2112/17. Escorts for C.W.20 as follows:- Destroyers BERKELEY or CATTISTOCK, CLEVELAND.
A/S Trawlers KINGSTON OLIVINE, LADY PHILOMENA, GREENFLY, M/S Trawlers ACACIA, DEODAR, ASH, BLACKTHORN BAY.
M.B.B. Vessels SAMBUR, ROEBUCK, PINGOUIN, HASLEMERE, MAMMOUTH, PINTADE.
M.L's 113, 116, 117, 118, 142, 165 and Chasseur 43. (C.in C. Nore, 1156/20 to Admty.)

Owing to damage to BERKELEY it is probable that CATTISTOCK will have to take her place as escort of C.W.20 21/12. Further signal will be made.
(C.in C. Nore, 1350/20).

Confirmed that BERKELEY will be unable to sail with C.W.20. CATTISTOCK is to take her place leaving Sheerness as ordered by CLEVELAND.
(C.in C. Nore, 1520/20).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

S.L.(S) 57.

Following is repetition of my 1126/20 addressed AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS, LADY LILIAN from C.in C. W.A. escort detailed for Oban portion S.L.(S)57 after arrival at Oban will be required to escort about eight ships from Oban to North Channel.
(C.in C. W.A. 1130/20 to LADY LILIAN).

H.N. 42.
H.L.S.57.

Following is a repetition of my 1606/20. Addressed - AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS, STELLA CAPELLA, LADY LILIAN, HORNPIPE, From C.in C. W.A. Estimate H.N. 42 will overhaul S.L.S.57 about 2000/20 off Oversay Light 1608.
(C.in C. W.A. 1616/20 to LADY LILIAN).

S.L. 57.

My 1026/20. AMAZON detailed in lieu of HEARTSEASE for B. Portion. Expected time of arrival 053° 48' 005° 08' now 0300/21. Commodore's expected time of arrival 280 Bar 1630/21. (AMBUSCADE 1655/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.C.17.

In absence of other instructions intend sailing MALOJA as ocean escort for S.C.17. Regret cannot guarantee to produce one for future S.C. convoys with present number of armed merchant cruisers in N.A. Escort Force.
(F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1946/20 to Admty.)

Convoy Cycles.

My 2147/20 (see U-Boat Campaign). Proposed to send following signal to Naval Authorities concerned. Your remarks are urgently requested.
The cycle of convoys is being amended as follows:-
Two H.X. convoys, one SC convoy, one SL convoy and one HG convoy to sail every 10 days. The HG convoy will rendezvous with a SL (S) convoy at sea, the whole then being known as HG.
3 OB convoys, one OB(S) convoy and one OG to sail every 10 days. The OG convoy will include slow ships for the South Atlantic. The outward bound and homeward bound convoys will be so arranged that every 10 days the escorts of 2 OB convoys transfer to HX convoys and the escorts of the OB(S) OG and one OB convoy transfer to the SC, HG and SL convoys respectively.

/ Normally .....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoy Cycles (contd.)

Normally those OB convoys whose escorts will meet HX convoys will be routed well to the northward. Ships of low endurance for the South Atlantic should not be included in these convoys. Ships in OB convoys whose escorts will meet SL convoys will normally be routed further South as will OB(S) and OG convoys.
This 10 day cycle of convoys will commence as follows:- (dates).
It will be noted that HX convoys sail alternatively at 4 and 6 day intervals. (D.T.D. 2158/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.S A.

Unless you have made other arrangements H.M.C.S. OTTAWA should act as Senior Officer A/S escort until arrival of H.M.S. HIGHLANDER as French Light Cruiser LE TRIOMPHANT has not yet worked up. (C.in C. W.A. 1314/20 to C.in C. H.F.).

W.S. 5 A.

Convoys WS 5A (Fast and slow) and aircraft carriers escorted by BERWICK and other H.M. Ships pass through position 054 deg. 10' North, 025 deg., 00' West A.M./22/12 routed through 053 deg. 00' North, 025 deg. 00' West 046 deg. 00' North, 026 deg. North west 039 deg. 40' North, 021 deg. 50' West 012 deg. 45' North 019 deg. 30' West 008'deg. 20' North 015 deg. 00' West thence to Freetown. Speed 15 and 11 knots. M.T. Ships, one aircraft carrier and escorts will leave main convoy probably 26/12 and pass through Patrol area to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.P. 2230/20 to Western Patrol).

Ref PL/017/19/12 not to Stranraer. Cancel first sortie by Aldergrove. Stranraer to escort secret convoy W.S.5A fast with one Lerwick from First Flight 20/12. Convoy should be in position GKQL at 0800 hrs. on route from North channel to GPGH 0041 and KF3 2900. Speed 14½ knots. Datum Point GKQL 0000. Naval escort NAIAD FURIOUS ARGUS H44 H19 G37 G91 H64 H60 H83 G65 H02 and I75. 0715/20.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

20.12.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

COMPEIGNE BRESTOIS

C.O. of KINGSTON TOPAZ reports closed French SS COMPEIGNE when she left Lisbon to ascertain reaction of French destroyer BRETOIS who was cruising near. As soon as BRESTOIS realized that KINGSTON TOPAZ was closing COMPEIGN former bore down on KINGSTON TOPAZ with all guns cleared away and manned. (A.S. Gibraltar 1132/20 to Admty.)

French Destroyers

Your 1210/10. N.C.S.O. Lisbon has no justification for the request in his 1628/12 as this is a matter of Contraband Control not in his province.

If these ships were intercepted holding ship Navicerts they would naturally be allowed to proceed. If without they would be sent in. (D.E.W.D. 1054/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

20.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RHONE, fire.

S. PIERRE in position 028° 33'N., 012° 02'W at 0930/20 reports RHONE on fire ten miles West of her. (British 209 tons).
(MARSDALE, 1043/20 to F.O.C.N.P., F.O.C.N.A)

CIRCASSIA.

Intend sail CIRCASSIA for patrol in accordance with your 0200/20 on 26/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1130/20 to V.A.N.P.)

Your 1130/20. If ready for sea and local escort available request CIRCASSIA be sailed 24/12 for area R.3 and S.3.
(F.O.C.N.P 2300/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Force H. Oiling at sea.

Your 1619/17. Force H had just reached position N.E. of Azores when recalled. In this area conditions were definitely unsuitable for oiling at sea owing to long and heavy swell. SHEFFIELD reports on 4 out of 5 days in area south of St. Miguel conditions were suitable for oiling. This confirms to some extent RENOWN's previous experience that this area is probably the best. Heavy ships normally oil close under lee of land. Information required concerning the extent to which swell persists under the lee and locality least likely to be under shore observation.
1145/20.

UPHOLDER
USK
UNIQUE.

At 0001 /21. UPHOLDER, USK, UNIQUE from U.K. expect to cross 041° 00'N., routed through 038° 30'N., 010° 46' W., 036° 46'N 009° 22'W to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1547/20).

Aircraft Equipment.

Your 1844/8 not to ARGUS. Four external L.R. tanks being sent in ARGUS with 21 (X) Flight. Any more requirements be provided by ARK ROYAL no more available in U.K.
(D.N.A.D. 1834/20 to S.O.Force H.)

/TRIDENT.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

TRIDENT	A.T. 1323/19. Para 5 amend TRIDENT's estimated position course and speed to read (details) (D.O.D. (F) 1857/20 to BONAVENTURE)
BERWICK	Cancel my 1122/20. Admty 1805/20, enter Gibraltar as soon as possible tonight 20/12 after 2200 zone - 1. (F.O.C.N.A. 2052/20 to BERWICK)

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE	Capetown arrivals 20/12. CARNARVON CASTLE (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0703/20 to Admty.)
TRIBESMAN	Overdue shipping TRIBESMAN due Durban 15/12 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1005B/20)
LORNASTON	Overdue shipping. LORNASTON due Durban 16/12 from Fremantle not arrived. (S.O. (I) Capetown, 1015B/20)
MILFORD	Arrival 0930/20 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1231N/20)
Whalers	4 Whale Catchers sail from Freetown for St. Helena 21/12 thence to Walvis Bay. (C. in C., S.A., 1249/20)

/Contd.

MOST SECRET.

20.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Whalers.

Whale catchers SWONA SKUD three SKUD four and SKUD five sail Freetown 21/12 for St. Helena thence to Walvis Bay and Simonstown and except to arrive Walvis Bay 6/1/41 and will require total of 250 tons fuel. Request you will arrange.
(C.in C. S.A. 1301/20 to Capt: i/c Simonstown).

SAVOREGNAN DE BRAZZA.

Simonstown departures 1300/20 December Free French Sloop SAVORONAN DE BRAZZA for Durban.E.T.A.1100/23.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1305Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

DELHI.

Arrived Manoka 1300/20.
(DELHI 1310/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

FURIOUS.

Following aircraft despatched FURIOUS 19/12. (details)
(Air Min. 1735/20 to R.A.F. Station Takoradi).

Destroyers Force K.

Your 0020/19 Request confirmation that 2 destroyers mentioned are for operations with Force K.
(C.in C. S.A. 1827/20 to Adty).

Your 1827/20. Destroyers are to enable Force K to be escorted in and out of Freetown and for escort of FURIOUS pending arrival of Corvettes.
(V.C.N.S. 2355/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F Bearings at 2108/20 G.M.T. of probable surface unit making - ZZ. FMS. SZQ. ECM. NJBC.
(D.D.I.C. 2316/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET

20.12.1940
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

MALAYA
NUBIAN
DIAMOND
DEFENDER
WRYNECK
WAIWERA
LANARKSHIRE

Arrived 0230/20 MALAYA, NUBIAN, DIAMOND, DEFENDER, WRYNECK, WAIWERA, LANARKSHIRE. (V.A.Malta, 0135/20)

GRIFFIN
GREYHOUND
GALLANT
DAINTY
HASTY

Arrival 0430/20 GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND, GALLANT, DAINTY, HASTY. (V.A.Malta 0343/20)

Italian
R.D.F.

Capt. (S) 1st S.F.'s 1229/17. No positive information is available concerning use of R.D.F. by enemy screen vessels. Frequent instances of M.A.S. or Destroyers closing at high speed from outside visibility range have been reported. In some instances M.A.S. have passed directly overhead shortly after submarine had dived but in no instance has any hunt or attack developed. This led to theory that some enemy escorting ships were probably equipped with a device detecting submarines on the surface at range exceeding 4 thousand yards. (Lt. Com. (S) 0927/20 to Admty.)

Brindisi
Raid

A 225 20/11. Operational Summary. Night 19/20 3 Wellingtons 70 Sqdn. carried out successful raid on oil tanks and railways at Brindisi. Visibility made observation results difficult but aircraft bombing from 8000, 5500, and 3000 feet put all bombs target area. Large fires were started and subsequent explosions observed. Extremely severe A/A fire met, was very accurate up to 10,000 feet and followed aircraft around target. One Wellington was hit on one engine, and air-screw shot away. Balloons seen North of town. (H.Q.,R.A.F., G. 0940/20)

CIRCASSIA
VIDETTE

Gibraltar arrivals 0745/20 CIRCASSIA, VIDETTE. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1044/20 to Admty.)

/Operational.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operational Summary No 193 Up to 1200 hrs. 20/12.

Egypt.

Greece.

Sudan. 19/12. 1 Blenheim made submarine search ahead of convoy.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East, 1222/20 to Air Min.)

Spanish Trade

For information. There seems to be large increase of traffic between Spanish East Coast and Sete e.g. Valencia departure 17/12 Spanish sailing vessels CARMEN, ESTELA, PAULITA, CALAMA, RZERO, NUEVO CORAZON.

Unknown Submarine

Las Palmas reports on good authority that Spanish ship SS SAN CARLOS sunk by gunfire by unknown submarine between Cape Juby and Fuerteventura on 16/12. From intercepted wireless signal it appears also that French S.S. RHONE and SFAX have also sunk in that vicinity. No British submarines in that vicinity. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1222/20 to N.A.Madrid)

M.T.Convoy

F.O.Force H. 2358/19. If you wish to, request you will amend Admiralty 1322/19 and 1323/19 as necessary but it would appear that extra destroyers will be required to escort ARGUS and DUNEDIN back into Gibraltar.

ARGUS DUNEDIN

If ARGUS is kept with M.T.Convoy BONAVENTURE should remain with DUNEDIN until it is necessary for her to proceed ahead to Gibraltar so as to fuel and transfer 60 military personnel to Mediterranean destroyers. (D.O.D. (F) 1241/20 to C. in C., Med.)

BONAVENTURE

BONAVENTURE has on board 4 Army Officers and 56 other ranks comprising 4 groups of special troops trained for raiding from submarines.
They are to be transferred at Gibraltar to destroyers for onward passage to Malta They will be under operational control of C. in C., Med. (D.O.D. (F) 1245/20 to C. in C., Med.)
Cancel position (d) proceed from posit' (e) direct to position (e) (D.O.D.(H) 1303/20 to C.S. 15 BONAVENTURE)

/KINGSTON TOPAZ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.12.1940. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

KINGSTON TOPAZ, KINGSTON TURQUOISE — Gibraltar departure 1300/20 KINGSTON TOPAZ for T. 1 South KINGSTON TURQUOISE protecting T 1 North. 1326/20.

REGENT. — My 1921/19. Concentrate on Coastal route keeping to S. of 33° N. between 014° E. and 015° E.
Leave Patrol P.M.23/12 to pass through position 035° 32'N. 014° 13' E. to arrive off Grangemouth Harbour 0700/25. Delimara Light will be exhibited from 0200/25. Times Zone minus one.
(V.A. Malta, 1551/20 to REGENT).

UPRIGHT. — Leave 034° N. 013° E. pass through positions 035° 00' N. 014° E., 035° 35' N. 014° 10' E. to arrive off Grand Harbour 0700/24. Delimara light will be exhibited from 0200/24 time zone minus one.
(V.A. Malta, 1559/20 to UPRIGHT).

Air Report. — Combined Services report - Malta to 1700/20.
(H.Q. Med. 1700/20 to Air Min.)

Greece. — Operational Summary No. 38. No naval items. (H.Q. B.A.F., G., 1640/20).

A/S Information to Greek Naval Authorities. — Information onA/S matters may be disclosed to Greek Naval Authorities as considered necessary, with the following exceptions. No information should be given on A/S Experimental matters including detection of U-Boats by R.D./F., nor on methods of identification, including loop identification signals. Selected Commissioned Officers of Royal Hellenic Navy undergoing instruction in asdic gear and methods may be given access to Confidential Books as considered necessary. Strict reticence should be observed with regard to present and future anti-U-Boat measures being adopted in the approaches to the United Kingdom.
(D.A/S.W. 1737/20 to C.in C. Med.)

DUNCAN, ENCOUNTER, ISIS, WISHART, JAGUAR, FORCE H — Gibraltar departures 0930 20/12 DUNCAN, ENCOUNTER, ISIS, WISHART, JAGUAR 1815 S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FURY, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, FORESTER in accordance with S.O. Force H. 2325/19/12. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1818/20 to Admty.)

Air Operation ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Operation. Wellington and Swordfish aircraft will be visiting Tripoli (Africa) tonight 20/21 T.O.O. 1905/20.
(V.A. Malta, 1911/20 to Med. Fleet).

East M.T. Ships, troop transports. East M.T. ships and troop transports are urgently required in U.K.
Request you will consider passing a convoy of such ships westward to Gibraltar during operation EXCESS and forward your remarks.
It is recognised that there would be risk to ships on passage bu this could be accepted in view of urgency of their return.
Vessels particularly required are LANARKSHIRE, ORION and STRATHMORE and any others of suitable speed.
As these ships are not fitted with paravanes, would it be possible to sweep them through mineable waters.
Commercial cargoes could be loaded so far as time permits, also MALAYA's tubes if available as they are required at Gibraltar as soon as possible.
(D.O.D.(F) 2156/20 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.

Convoy E.S.11. Sailing telegram 1100 G.M.T./19. Route. Escorts CLIVE and GRIMSBY from 20/12.
(S.B.N.O. Suez, 1223/19, recd. Admty. 0315/20).

Kenya Defences. Admty. 2937/26/9 (Re tug whalers for interception of dhows from British East Africa). To bring Kenya coastal patrol H.A. protection up to reasonable standards, 6 Lewis guns are necessary in addition to those already held at Killindini. None available from naval sources on East Indies station. Request supply from U.K.
(C.in C. E.I., 0408/20, to Admty.)

W.S.4B. Convoy sailing telegram. W.S.4B. 0900 G.M.T. 16/12, 17 knots. Route. Escorts, SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE, transports, ANDES STRATHALLAN, ORCADES, VICEROY OF INDIA, STRATHAIRD, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, EMPRESS OF CANADA, REINE DEL PACIFICO, OTRANTO, STRATHNAVER Cmdre E.G. Robinson (DUCHESS OF ATHOL)
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0910B/20).

DEVONSHIRE. Durban arrival 20/12 DEVONSHIRE.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0410Z/20).

KIMBERLEY. KIMBERLEY arrived 0400Z/20.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0501Z/20).

/ CERES COLOMBO ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.12. 1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CERES COLOMBO.	CERES is to leave Mombasa A.M./22 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu. CERES is to arrange to rendezvous with COLOMBO A.M./23. COLOMBO is to proceed to Mombasa on relief by CERES. (C.in C. E.I., 1244Z/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

COLOMBO, CORNWALL.

My 0630 December 15th COLOMBO will reconnoitre Mogadishu evening 21/12 from outside range of shore guns assumed to be 15000 yards. If shipping is seen there and COLOMBO's fire is innefective at this range CORNWALL will bombard from same range evening 22/12. (C.in C. E.I. 14562/20 to Admty.).

Assab Raids.

Summary No. 191 for 24 hours ending 1500/20.
0650 3 Blenheims 8 Squadron attacked water pumping station at Marsile 3¾ miles south of Assab salt pans.
0900 to 0920 1 of these aircraft reconnoitred Assab Area. No activity or changes seen Assab Harbour Macsaca aerodromes and bombing range 2 Satellites and Bailul landing ground.
3 Blenheims 203 Squadron returned from convoy duties based Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1525/20 to Air Min.)

SAGITTA.

1910Z/20 departure SAGITTA. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1916Z/20).

China.

Intelligence.

For Eastern Weekly Intelligence Report 9. No major change. (C.O.S. Singapore, 04052/20).

M.E.I. Navy.

Following received from C.in C. Netherlands East Indies Begins. Informative Reference Staff Discussion Netherland Indies Government agree to following points:
Exchange of Liaison Officers.
Organization of communication cypher code for combined action consisting of three. Co-ordination of Intelligence.
Contact of officers of Air Force for organization of co-operation of Air Forces.
Visit of B.R. Staff Officer to Netherland Indies. Proposal will be made to carry out points. Ends. (C.in C. China 04152/20 to Admty.)

Enemy Raider Policy.

Your 0830/11. Concur generally with C.in C. E.I. 1548/12 and 1750/15.
My present resources are so limited that can do little more than provide intermittent cover for trade in Achin Head area. (C.in C. China, 05172/20. N.B. Melbourne.).

/ TIRHANNA .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (continued).

TIRRANNA. Your 07372/17 to S.O. (I) Hong Kong. Can you ascertain date TIRRANNA was sunk and name of Yugo-Slav vessel. Could she have been DURMITOR, sailed Lourenco Marques 26/9 for Batavia. (D.D.I.C. 1218/20 to S.O.(I) Shanghai).

Hong Kong works schemes. In view of present conditions Board has approved following revised statement of policy concerning works schemes at Hong Kong.
Request Commodore, Hong Kong report present state of all proposed works.
(Head of M. 1807/20 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Raider Report. EMPIRE SAMBAR. R.R.R.R., 51.10 N., 35.06 W. EMPIRE SAMBAR sighted. (Via Lyness W/T, no T.O.O. recd. 1010/20). Following has been read:- From EMPIRE SAMBAR, cancel my R.R.R.R.0920. (T.O.R. 1148/20).
Raider reported by EMPIRE SAMBAR is WORCESTERSHIRE (WORCESTERSHIRE 0709/20, to Admty.)

H.X.90, Convoy Conference. Masters of 3 ships in H.X.90 state convoy conference not held before sailing. N.C.S.O. Bermuda reported having said he did not believe in conferences. Request you investigate and report.
(D.T.D., 1409/20 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

H.X.99. Your 1414/18. Date of sailing of H.X.99 and H.V. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 0908/20).

ALAUNIA. ALAUNIA arrived Halifax 20/12 from HX 96. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 0929/20 to Admty.)

LEOPOLDVILLE Your 0050/19 not to N.O.I.C. St. John, N.B. LEOPOLDVILLE will proceed to St. John, N.B. from Halifax for cargo and passengers. Now estimated sailing from St. John, N.B. direct for U.K. (date and accommodation). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1113/20 to D. of S.T.)

BAYANO My 1545 9th Sailing of BAYANO delayed till 24/12 on account of fruit loading difficulties.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1445/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

DESPATCH Kingston arrival DESPATCH. Bermuda pass to CARADOC.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1500/20 to C.in C. A. and W.I.).

Japanese Shipping. My 0949/18.
Los Angeles reports Japanese lines are refusing to sign cargo contracts for delivery at given date and place without cancellation of clause. YASUKAWA MARU sailed Manzanilla 2/12 for Yokohama direct

/ omitting ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Japanese shipping. (contd.) omitting usual call at Los Angeles. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1604/20, to Capt. O.S. Singapore).

Bermuda, leakage. Admiralty 1856/19 and your 1812/19 not to Admiralty. After investigation I am confident that possibility leakage at Bermuda is Negligible. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1731/20, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

REVENGE, T.C.8, H.X.100. My 2240/6. Owing to possibility of appearance of raider in North Atlantic REVENGE is to leave convoy T.C.8 on 21/12 and return to Halifax. REVENGE should be sailed to cover HX 100. Cancel my 1224/18/12 and my 2133/18/12 (D.O.D. (H) 1714/20 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

Australia.

Raider, Nauru. Statement for Press by Navy Minister, Mr. Hughes, on raider attack on shipping off Nauru on 8/12. (A.C.N.B., 1436Z/20 to Admty.) (Original in Lion Copy only).

BATHURST, MANOORA. BATHURST left Westernport 0230Z/19 arrived Port Phillip Bay 0736Z/19. MANOORA escorting local transport ZEALANDIA left Dover. 2229Z/18 for Thursday Island. (A.C.N.B. 1254Z/20 to Admty.)

ADELAIDE WAIRUNA ADELAIDE departed Sydney 0245Z/19 escorting WAIRUNA towards FIJI until 0200Z/24 when ADELAIDE will return to Sydney. (A.C.N.B. 1812Z/20 to Admty.)

CANBERRA. CANBERRA arrived Sydney 2122Z/19. (A.C.N.B. 1914Z/20 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LA PLATA. — German ship LA PLATA sailed from Vigo 2245/19. (D.D.I.C. 0240/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LA PLATA. — German LA PLATA sailed from Vigo 2245 19/12. Description. (F.O.C.N.A. 0751/20).

FULDA, SCHARNHORST. — Japanese transport at Woosung 26/11 and in Yangtse estuary 17/12 identified as German ship FULDA which left Dairen 15/8, description.
Kobe 15/12 no alteration or new construction observed in German SCHARNHORST.
(Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0837/20 to Admty.)

JOA PESSOA — JOA PESSOA left Bilbao 2130/19 Destination unknown. (Bilbao, (1745/20 to D.N.I. ?)
(1755/20

PLUS (German, 2449 tons). — My 2316/19 (re German ship LA PLATA) PLUS also left harbour last night but later returned to her anchorage and is still here. (Consul Vigo, 0912/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attacks on Convoys, N.W. Approaches.

Enemy U-Boats in the N.W. Approaches have been attacking our convoys in 20° to 25° West in the area beyond the point which can be reached by our escorts, particularly in bad weather. To meet this attack and at the same time to reduce the strain upon our escorting forces following policy has been decided upon.

2.(a) To make use of dispersion to maximum extent that the endurance of merchant ships and the limitation of the N.W. Approaches permit;

(b) Routes of W.X. convoys will be spread between about 57° N.; and 63-1/2°. Routes for SL SC and Gibraltar convoys will be spread between about 57°N. and 54°N. or as far south as the danger from aircraft can be accepted.
Routes of outward bound convoys will conform.

(c) To open out the cycle of all convoys except the Gibraltar convoy with the object of reducing the strain on our escort forces.

(d) In Summer it is proposed to make the maximum use of of Northern waters in order to gain the high degrees of protection against present U-Boat tactics given by the perpetual daylight.

Fuel Bases, Loch Ewe, Iceland.

3. To allow of escorts on the more Northerly routes proceeding further to the Westward it is intended to establish refuelling bases for escorts at Loch Ewe and at Hvalfjord in Iceland. A depot ship and at least one rescue tug will be stationed in the latter harbour.

4. It is further intended to make use of the Minches for some outward and homeward convoys for which purpose additional buoyage is being established.
(D.T.D. 2147/20).

Ships Attacked.

SAN CARLOS, Spanish.

(Sunk 16/12) See S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1222/20, under Mediterranean.

RHONE,)
SFAX)

French, sunk in region between Cape Juby and Fuerteventura (no dates given).
S.O.I., Gibraltar 1222/20.
See Mediterranean.

CARLTON.

The following has been read.
55° 36' N. 18° 00'W. CARLTON submarine chasing. (Valentia Radio, 0840/20).

/ The following ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

The following has been read:
Submarine Attack.
55°-33'N. 18°-10'W. CARLTON being chased by submarine.
(Valentia W/T, 0919/20).

The following has been read.
55° 36'N. 18° 00'W. CARLTON submarine chasing we firing at him 0822/20.
(Via Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 0930/20).

CARLTON. Cancel my submarine distress message my 0915 20th December.
(CARLTON via Valentia Radio, 1157/20)

The following has been read.
55° 18'N. 18° 49'W. submarine
(CARLTON, 1254/20.)

The following has been read.
55° 18 N. 18° 49 W. CARLTON torpedo crossed ahead 1259/20. (CARLTON, 1301/20).

PENDRECHT. Dutch ship PENDRECHT reports being torpedoed in 59° 05' N. 17° 47' W. at 1429/18? G.M.T. Has large hole on starboard quarter and no boats. Have ordered her to proceed to Greenock. Her position, course and speed 56°25'N. 07° 22'W. 171° 9 knots. As she is in no danger of sinking am not escorting her. SANDWICH, 1045/20 to C.in C. W.A.

PENDRECHT safe. Return to base passing through 058° 28' N. 018° 11'W. where DELFON reported she was attacked by submarine 1743/18. (C.in C. W.A. 1414/20 to ARABIS).

LEGION reported at 1715 she was in 55° 31'N. 6° 22'W. escorting torpedoed PENDRECHT to Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2116/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

NAPIER STAR. Ship is searching for you now in position you gave. (Admty. Devonport 1112/20 to NAPIER STAR.)

Continue to search for NAPIER STAR as long as fuel permits.
(C.in C. W.A. 1755/20 to CALDWELL).

OREGON. The following has been read.
Cancel 3333 re OREGON.
(OREGON, 1245/20).

The following has been read.
8 miles bearing 260° Skerries attacked by submarine. (OREGON, T.O.R. 1330/20).

/ Following received ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

Following received from WOODCOCK R Y A M 37 begins:- Received 1245 G.M.T. S S S OREGON 8 miles bearing 260° Skerries, attacked by submarine. T.O.O. 1229. Ends. (F.O. Humber 1425/20 to Admty.)

VARENBERG. VARANGBERG 55° 30' N. 1925 W. attacked by submarine torpedoes missing. (Plymouth W/T T.O.R. 1336/20).

55° 30' N. 19° 25 W. VARANGBERG attacked by submarine. (Valentia Radio, 1335/20).

The following has been read. 55° 30' N. 19° 25'W. VARENGBERG attacked by submarine. (VARENGBERG, T.O.R. 1347/20).

AMICUS Your 0945/20th. Continue search for AMICUS until dark 20/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1324/20 to WESTCOTT).

CARLTON VARARBERG Proceed to attack submarines reported chasing CARLTON in position 055° 18' N. 018° 49' W. at 1455 and VARARBERG in position 055° 30' N. 019° 25' W. at 1435. Both ships outwardbound. Sunderland Aircraft should arrive about 1900 to co-operate. (C.in C. W.A. 1532/20 to WESTCOTT).

Submarines Reported.

1719. By D.F. 54° to 56° N., 17° to 20° W. (D.D.I.C. 1926/20).

Loch Sween (at 1510/19) Your 2005/19 investigation reveals that Cable ship IRIS painted grey was near Loch Sween at 1610/19 and uses Loch for night anchorage. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1028/20).

Italian. Indications Italian U-boats approaching Bordeaux cross meridian 007° W. between 045° and 046° N. (V.A.S. 1851/20 to S/M's on patrol Area 5).

0935. A.F. message 55.36 N., 18°W. at 0835 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0958/20).

Estimated U-boat dispositions. Italian.
One to Westward of Madeira.
One in Azores area.
4 in N.W.Approaches in triangle 57 degs. N. 20 degs. W. 54 degs. N. 20 degs. W. and 54 degs N. 15 degs. W. of which one was in 54 degs. 10' N. 15 degs. 50' W. at 1919/19; one in 55 degs. 36'N. 18 degs. W. at 0935/20, others probably near 20 degs. W.

German. ....

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

20.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (Contd.)

German.
Probably one in Sierra Leone area.
One was west of Cape Juby at 2100/16.
One may be about 55 degs. N. West of 15 degs. W. proceeding Northwards.
One may be N.W. Rockall proceeding West.
One about 58 degs. N. 20 degs. W. at 1210/19.
One to North Westward of this position.
One was North of 60 degs. N. and West of 20 degs. W. at 0121/20.
One may be S. of S.E. of Rockall.
(D.D.I.C. 1255/20).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

It is under consideration that the A.M.C's employed on the Northern Patrol should be based on Halifax, making regular trips of 30 days between Halifax and Reykjavik and return of which 22 days would be spent in effective service. In this way the ships would not enter the U-Boat zone at any time during their passage, they would be free from Air attack in harbour and at sea, and congestion at the Clyde would be relieved.

Submarines at Bordeaux, the Power Station Naval Dockyard and Shipping in Brest, and the TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven were attacked last night by our Bombers, and all the routine patrols except Patrol FAIR were flown by our aircraft today. A single Enemy aircraft dropped one bomb on Fair Island at 0920 this morning without causing any damage, and at 0930 a second single aircraft approached Scapa Flow from the Eastward but was driven off by our Fighters before actually reaching the Flow. During last nights Air Raid on Liverpool it is now reported that considerable damage was done to dock sheds, at least 12 discharging berths in the North Liverpool Docks having been made useless, the frontage of the Melias Depot building seriously injured and its offices rendered unusable. There was however only very slight damage to the Birkenhead Docks and none to the South Docks at Liverpool. Six M/V's were damaged, and the AUSTRALIA in Brocklebank Graving Dock was undamaged though near-missed by some 6 feet only.

Convoy AGENT was shadowed for some time just before noon close to the Nore Light Vessel, but was not attacked; and between 1745 and 1805 this evening several H.E. Bombs were dropped on and near Harwich causing some damage to property in the town.

C. in C., Nore reports that of the Mines dropped in the Medway-Thames area during the night 12/13 when 29 were seen to drop and more were doubtless dropped unobserved a total of 40 are now accounted for, 9 having sunk or damaged one ship each, 6 acoustic and 3 magnetic having been swept, and 22 having exploded spontaneously.

/2 further...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

2 further Mines were detonated in this area today by sweepers and 2 tugs and 1 Barge were mines and sunk there. Trials are to be made, if technically possible, of U.P. weapons mounted in surface vessels to deal with enemy minelaying aircraft. Flares and Fireballs from Enemy aircraft continued to be seen at intervals last night in the Thames Estuary and Harwich areas.

A report that the Kiel Canal is temporarily blocked appears to be supported by the fact that about 20 M/V's were seen by our aircraft at anchor without lights 1 ½ miles West of Kiel Lightship at at 0521 today.

Shipping

Convoy T.C. 8.

11 destroyers have been detailed by C. in C., Western Approaches to meet Convoy T.C. 8. (PASTEUR, PENNLAND and CAPETOWN CASTLE, with 7,000 troops for U.K.) in 57° N 22° W., at 1300/22 and escort to the Clyde in 2 portions. The convoy left Halifax on 16/12. The transports will be prepared for W.S. 5 B, sailing in the New Year.

North Atlantic

BERWICK left Gibraltar at 1600/21 to meet Troop Convoy W.S. 5 A which left the U.K on 18/12. She will R.V. with 15th C.S on the morning of the 24th.

The German M.V. HEINRICH ARP left Ferrol at midnight last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

An enemy raider is estimated to be within 10 miles either side of a line joining 10° 30' S., 13° 40' W., and 12° S., 13° 20' W HERMES, DRAGON and PRETORIA CASTLE are in the vicinity. An alternate appreciation puts the raider in vicinity of 18° S., 13° W., or (?) 29° S., 11° W.

Force K is to cover an area west of the traffic route between the U.K. and South Africa through which a raider might approach to attack trade.

CARNARVON CASTLE arrived at Capetown yesterday for repairs, after her raider action. Alternate proposals have been submitted for permanent or temporary repairs which would take 4½ months or 3½ weeks respectively.

Mediterranean

10 F.A.A. Swordfish attacked Tripoli Harbour last night, 6 carrying "cucumbers" and the other 4 22 bombs of 250 lbs and 14 incendiaries. The former were all "planted" 4 south of the main channel and 2 definitely in the channel. Godd results were obtained from the bombs. All the aircraft returned untouched, despite heavy and accurate A/A fire.

9 R.A.F. Wellingtons raided Castel Benito aerodrome last night. Others bombed the inner mole of the harbour at Benghazi Alexandria was raided by 1 aircraft early this morning, but all bombs fell in the sea.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

COLOMBO reports no shipping at Mogadishu (Italian Somaliland)

America & West Indies

In view of D.F. reports of an enemy surface vessel, VOLTAIRE has been ordered to keep as far westward as possible without delaying her junction with convoy H.X. 98 and CARADOC is to search from Bermuda towards B.H.X. junction in 44.55 N 51.55 W.

China

The German REGENSBURG left Yokohama yesterday afternoon.

German Merchant Ships

HEINRICH ARP, which had been at Ferrol since 1/9/1939 left at midnight last night for an unknown destination.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.M.C's of Northern Patrol.

It is under consideration that the A.M.C's employed on the Northern Patrol should in future be based on Halifax.

2. If this were done an A.M.C. would proceed from Halifax as ocean escort to an H.X. Convoy to about 23°W. and then proceed to Reykjavik, a total distance of about 2,000 miles, taking 11 to 12 days of which 10 days would be as escort.

3. At Reykjavik the A.M.C. would refuel and proceed to patrol for about 12 days, return to Reykjavik, refuel, and return to Halifax, taking probably 6 days.

4. The round trip would therefore take about thirty days, of which 22 would be spent in effective service. H.X. Convoys leave at alternate 4 & 6 days intervals, and the Northern Patrol A.M.C. would have to leave Halifax about every 10 to 13 days in order to keep one patrol line occupied.

5. With three ships running this could be done, giving them five days in harbour at Halifax. It is considered that four ships would be required in order to allow for maintenance etc.

6. It would be necessary to increase the fuelling facilities at Iceland.

7. Advantages.

(a) The ships do not enter the U-Boat zone at any period during their passage.

(b) They are free from air attack in harbour and at sea.

(c) The congestion in the Clyde would be relieved.

(d) One or two A.M.C's could be released from Halifax to work on the trade routes.

8. Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1751/21 to F.O.C.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Use of Searchlights against Minelaying A/C.

Your 1252/19. Air Ministry agree that whenever the chance of engaging hostile mine-laying aircraft is enough to outweigh risk of disclosing local features searchlights sited to illuminate such aircraft should engage them.
(Air Ministry. 1756/21 to Adty.)

DELUGE.

At 1130/21. (D.C. 1200/21) At 2330/21. (D.C.2330/21.)

Movements.

Nore Command Ships out of Action.

My 0746/17. Add BERKELEY at Chatham till about 28/12 and INTREPID at Immingham time unknown (C. in C. Nore 0808/21.)

EGLINTON.

Sailed for Chatham 1010. E.T.A. Sheerness 1300. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1022/21.) Arrived Sheerness 1407 (C. in C. Nore 1550/21.)

MOOLTAN.

My 2330/20. Amend Position K to 56° 40'N. 2° 15' 18"W.(F.O.C.N.P. 1212/21 to MOOLTAN.) Sailed unescorted for Tyne.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1245/21 to F.O.C.N.P.) E.T.A.Tyne 0800/23(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1613/21)Route to Tyne from position in latitude W.H.D.in F.O.C.N.P. 2330/20. (C. in C. Rosyth 1901/21 to MOOLTAN.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1520/21.)

ROCKINGHAM.

Delayed by weather. E.T.A. Hartland Point 0330/22 and Plymouth 1500/22. Request Fighter protection during daylight tomorrow from near Longships. (ROCKINGHAM 1828/21. to C. in C. W.A.)

VIMY
SALOPIAN.

My 1300. Unable locate SALOPIAN. Now proceeding to arrive Butt of Lewis 2200 when, if nothing heard, intend steer for original R/V at 12 Knots.(VIMY 1830/21 to R.A.D. H.F.)

KUMJARI.
JERSEY.
JUPITER.

Arrived Plymouth 1110. (C. in C.W.A. 0024/22.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Troop Embarkation. GLENCYLE arrived and proceeded up river (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1600/21.)

Iceland. HECLA. HECLA is now required as Depot and Repair Ship in Iceland and not as in my 2208/8/12. To be completed with sufficient W/T gear to permit passage to Iceland, but completion date should not be delayed.(V.C.N.S. 1613/21 to A.S.C.B.S.)

Submarines.

UNIQUE. Expect arrive Position E. 2030/21. (UNIQUE to FOCHA).

H.32. Sailed 21/12 escorted by CLARKIA (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0951/21.) Arrived Rothesay (S.7.1710/21.)

THUNDERBOLT. Arrived Clyde with CUTTY SARK.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1253/21.)

SEAWOLF. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1353/21.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1445/21.)

L. 23. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1651/21.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/22. (V.A.S. 1806/21 and 2056/21.)

SEVERN. Adty. 1752/20. In view of Northerly route now being taken by Convoys, propose SEVERN be escorted to Scillies and then proceed independently. (C. in C.W.A. 1858/21 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Cancel SHARP. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0603/21 to H.Q.F.C.) Following Patrols ordered today: SA.1A., SA.2, SA.3, STAND, and S.9. (C. in C. Rosyth 0802/21.)
2 Blenheim Fighters leave Dyce 0845 to Flamborough Head and return.(C.in C. Rosyth 0804/21.) My 0802/21. Add Patrol BERT.(C. in C. Rosyth 1034/21.) Patrol FAIR will not be flown tonight.(C.in C. Rosyth 1540/21.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.Contd.

Coastal Command. Routine Summary at 0800/21 of 15, 16, and 18 Groups.(H.Q.C.C. 0900/21 to Air Ministry.

Wilhelmshaven. Lorient. Brest. 22 Sqdn. to attack tonight TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven. Alternative Target, Shipping in new inner harbour at Emden.
53 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's at Lorient. Alternative Target, Aerodrome at Rennes.
59 Sqdn. to attack tonight Shipping in Grand Bassin at Brest. Alternative Target. Aerodrome at Rennes.(H.Q.C.C.1445/21 to 16 Group, North Coates, Thorney Island.)

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight with 2 A/C the S/M's in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. And 2 A/C to attack tonight A/C at Merignac Aerodrome, Bordeaux. (H.Q.C.C. 1447/21 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Flares in Thames Estuary. Detailed report of 16 Flares dropped for practice from 2109/20 to 2205/20 along track 5 miles East of Swept Channel from N.E. Swin Light. Results and suggestions. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1755/21 to H.Q.C.C.)

Lights off Harwich. Coloured Lights reported to seaward from Harwich. Our A/C with flares to investigate patrolling once from 52° 10' N. 2° E. to 51° 40' N. 2° E. and return.(Chatham 2340/21 to Adty.) A/C will drop Flares between 0030 and 0130 tonight along 2° E.from Aldeburgh Light Vessel to North Falls.(C. in C. Nore 2341/21.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Fair Island. Scapa Flow. At 0920 single enemy aircraft attacked Fair Island one bomb being dropped but no damage or casualties reported. No. R.D.F. plots received before attack. At 0930 a second enemy aircraft identified as Do. 17 or 215 approached Flow from East at 5000 feet and was engaged by ground defences with U.T.P. E/A altered course to south before reaching Flow and retired chased by fighters which had been ordered up. E/A not intercepted due to poor visibility and low cloud, but good plots received throughout.
(A.C.O.S. 1125/21 to Adty.)

Convoy. AGENT. Being shadowed by one A/C bearing 150° from Nore Light Vessel.(VIMIERA 1133/21.) Position 51 28' N. 0 58' E. Course 045°, speed 6knots (Convoy AGENT 1135/21) Being shadowed by one A/C circling Nore Light Vessel.(VIMIERA 1153/21.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.
Following damage caused by air raid night 20/21.

Liverpool Air-Raid. damage.

MAPLIN.
EUROPA
LA PLACE
EASTERN PRINCE
SAMARIA
BRITANNIC.

MAPLIN - Slight fire on main deck from bomb probably oil incendiary which penetrated to engine room S.S. EUROPA fore hatch flooded near miss.S.S.LA PLACE U.X.B. in cargo in No. 3 hold. EASTERN PRINCE damaged by H.E.H.M.S. AUSTRALIA near missed 6 feet in Brocklebank graving dock. Dock three-quarter flooded some doubt whether bomb exploded. SAMARIA and BRITANNIC slight damage by I.b. Considerable damage to dock sheds principally at Canada and Huskisson. Estimated at least 12 discharging berths made useless in North Liverpool Docks. Damage to Hydraulic pressure at Hornby Dock and Gladstone, Hornby Langton and Canada system temporarily immobilised. Hoped to restore pressure p.m. today. Further report will be made. No damage Liverpool South Docks and very slight damage Birkenhead Docks.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1225/21 to Adty.)

My 1225/21. Confirm O.B.V. MAPLIN hit by large oil bomb estimated diameter of case about 18". Consider bomb which near missed AUSTRALIA definitely exploded; no damage. Hydraulic pressure restored Gladstone Lock. U.X.B. in SS. LAPLACE located, apparently not larger than 50 kg. but possibly A.A.shell.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1801/21. to Adty.)

Owing to presence of unexploded mine and suspected unexploded bomb in vicinity of Melias depot, it has been necessary to close depot temporarily. Hoped resume work on Monday morning but this not certain. Unexploded bomb is also in vicinity of sub depot at C.W.S.warehouse and this has also been closed. Frontage of Melias building seriously damaged by blast and offices rendered temporarily untenantable. Temporary arrangements being improvised but some dislocation of work inevitable. Damage to store as yet ascertained is very small.(S.V D.Liverpool 1811/21 to D. of V. Bath.)

WALLACE.

Am being shadowed by Enemy A/C.(WALLACE 1319/21.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

HIBERNIA. My 2224/20. Following from Master S.S. HIBERNIA begins: After passing East Pier I heard aircraft flying low. I ordered all lights out. Within one minute I saw flares then heard whistling bombs followed immediately by flash of an explosion followed by another within a few seconds, I asked for all pin lights to be put out. All passengers were disembarked in darkness. The first bomb dropped on the main road about quarter of a mile from us. Ends. Ship berthed Kingstown at 1936/20. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1958/21 to Adty.)

Explosions and Fireworks in Thames Estuary. Following seen during Night 20/21. (SO.T.L.B.F. 1923/21 to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich Air-Raid. Attack by single A/C. at 1745 6 H.E's and some incendiaries dropped all round Gate Vessel 2 or 3 of H.E's not yet exploded. At 1759 single A/C dropped 2 H.E's in Harwich one fell centre town damaging property. At 1805 another single a/c dropped 2 H.E's on open ground near Harwich and 2 or 3 other single a/c dropped bombs about this time within a few miles of Harwich. One small H.E. fell foreshore Shotley. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1930/21.)

Harwich Area. Following Flares and Fireballs reliably reported during Night 21/12.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0015/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sheerness Area Night 12/13.

Cdre. Sheerness reports 1 Mine reported dropped by A/C at 2144/12, 23 Mines dropped between 0018/13 and 0310/13, 1 Mine dropped at 0455/13. and 4 Mines at 0630/13. In all 29 Mines were reported dropped and doubtless many more unobserved. Most A/C appeared to be flying above Balloon height which was 3500 feet. Details. (C. in C. Nore 0054/21 and Recd. 0255/21 and 1057/21 to Admty).

My 0054/21 Number of mines accounted for up to present in Medway Thames Area.

(A) Ships sunk or damaged 9, one mine each.
(B) Swept 3 magnetic 6 acoustic making 9.
(C) Spontaneous or sympathetic explosions 22.

Total 40.

With exception of one magnetic mine swept on 14th none of the mines appear to have become active before the 17th. There are probably some more mines in Q Z X 252 which has not been searched.
(C. in C. Nore 1100/21 to Adty).

Liverpool.

Closed owing to suspected Minelaying (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0146/21).

Operation ZMS.9.

To be carried out on Night of 23/12 or as soon after as possible, subject to ADVENTURE not being required by C. in C. W.A. for Operation O.Q.2.
To lay 7 miles 180° from 51° 46' N 6° 21' W.
(A.C.N.S. H.1205/21 to C. in C. W.A. and ADVENTURE.).

Thames Estuary.

Mine detonated by S.A. Gear Type A. at 1435/20, 50 yards South of No. 3. Medway Channel Buoy.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1546/21 to C. in C. Nore).

Proposed laying of A. Mark I Mines by M.T.B's.

Following considerations and proposals submitted.
(C. in C. Nore 1626/21 to Adty) See Operations Volume.

/Powey.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (continued).

Fowey and St. Austell Bay.

Ports now open (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1738/21)

RIVER THAMES.

(Tug) Mined and sunk at 1542/21 between sites 11 and 7 to the South of East Nore Sand Buoy. Only one known survivor. No R.A.F. Personnel on board. (952 Sqdn. 1740/21 to B.B. H.Q) (C. in C. Nore 2259/21).

Barge TEO.12. (Motor Barge).

Foundered at 1850 as result of explosion which sank RIVER THAMES. All crew saved (952 Sqdn 1905/21 to 30 Group) (Cdr. Sheerness 1251/22 to Adty).

U.P. Defence against Minelaying A/C.

In view of recent heavy mine laying in area Eastern End Yantlet Channel Thames Estuary trials will be carried out if technically practical of naval 20 barrel up weapon mounted in vessels afloat. These vessels will be linked to A.A. command system and will be under same fire control as A.A. guns.
(Air Ministry 1815/21 to B. and C. Commands).

Adty 0003/19. No objections
(Air Ministry 1820/21 to Adty).

Sweep off Aberdeen.

Intend sailing 12th M/S Group to R/V 10 miles 090° Scurdy Ness at 2300/22 and search War Channel ahead of convoy E.N. 45 as far as Cruden Scaurs 090° 6 miles, then return to Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1818/21 and 2031/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

INNISFALLEN

(British, 3071 Tons) Mined at 1640/21 in River Mersey off the Canada Dock Entrance. Ship being beached. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1820/21).

Sheerness.

One Red Mine detonated by L.L. Tugs at 1125/21 in 010° No. 3 Medway Buoy 1½ cables. (Capt M/S Sheerness 1820/21).

SUN IX

(Tug) Mined and sunk about midway between Nos. 1 and 2 Buoys in Yantlet Channel at 1243 today. (C. in C. Nore 2259/21) 1 killed, 1 missing, 4 survivors landed at Southend.
(N.C.S.O.Thames 2358/21 to C. in C. Nore

MOST SECRET.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

988. Following considerations affecting laying of A. mark I mines from M.T.B's are submitted:-

(a) Possible Area:-

1. Harbours. Mining in approachesto enemy ports is not at present desirable owing to strength of enemy defences and small chance of achieving surprise.

2. Traffic routes offer best chances of succes although enemy shipping is not tied to narrow swept channels natural bottlenecks are caused by shoals. The Channel chosen should be narrow on account of small number of mines carried by a M.T.B. unit and normal spacing of mines of 300 feet.

3. Mining of areas through which ~~are~~ our ships may have to pass or shallow waters in which our M.T.B's normally operate is considered undesirable.

(b) Proposed areas in order of priority.

1. West Deep at entrance to Zuydcoote Pass. This area is recommended for a first attempt as meeting with enemy patrols is not likely.

2. Entrance to Oostgat leading into the Schelde from Northwards.

3. Dunkirk Approach near Dunkirk C.W. Buoy off Gravelines patrol may be met but if so they must be evaded.

4. Entrance to Schulpen Gat in main approach to Texel and Den Helder patrols may be met and distance from base is great.

5. On either side of Breedt Bank off Dunkirk. A route for through convoys in one of these channels is suspected but lack of aids to navigation will not make laying easy.

(c) It is intended to form a unit of one boat with torpedoes and echo sounding gear as leader and two boats with mines.

(d) It is proposed to commence these operations at first favourable opportunity but 48 hours is required to prepare boats for laying. This factor and the weather may put one torpedo striking force out of action for an inconveniently long time as we have only sufficient boats to deal with one or the other.
(C.in C. Nore 1626/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Kiel.

Result of photographic R/C today.
(PIU 2030/21) (PIU 0010 and 0417/22).

Bremen, Bremerhaven, Nordenham, Vegesak.

P.R.U. Sortie on 21/12
(PIU 0037/22);

Off Kiel.

At 0521/21 A/C saw about 20 Ships anchored without lights 1½ miles due West of Kiel Lightship.
(H.Q.B.C. 0437/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

RAMILLIES.

After consultation with C.I.N.C. one 15" gun in "Y" Turret in RAMILLIES has been provisionally condemned and immediate exchange recommended. P Provided unforseen delays are not experienced it is anticipated that gun can be exchanged and work completed p.m. 31st December. There is a large amount of other gun mounting work to be done in this ship but this can not be undertaken unless date of completion of RAMILLIES is postponed until 6/1 or alternatively men are taken off EXETER and EMERALD which will involve corresponding delays in these ships.
Request immediate decision.
(C. in C. W.A. 1225/21 to Adty).

Your 1225/21. Approved to replace right gun of Y. Ship is to be ready to sail on January 4th. As much other gunmounting work as possible should be underteken while ship is in hand. Consequent delay to EMERALD and EXETER must be accepted if necessary.
(D.C.D.H. 1615/21 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

H.N. 44. 2230/20. Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH, additionnal escort WOLFHOUND. 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0007/21)

W.N. 57. 2250/20. Escorts PAYNTER, ARCTIC EXPLORER. 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0939/21) Amend number of ships to 16 (1259/21)

W.N. 57. List. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1511/21)

W.N. 57 O. 1300/21. Escort SAON. 6 ships. To R.V. with "Material". (N.C.S.O.Oban, 1037/21) 1400/21. 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1551/21).

H.X.95. Rect. (C.in C. W.A., 1226/21 to ABERDEEN, WOLVERINE, CAMELLIA, ARBUTUS, COLUMBINE).

O.B.O. 262. Sailing, 0145/25. 12 ships. List. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1231/21).

C.W.20. LOUISE sailed with 6 balloons and minesweeper with 1 Mark 6. (952 Sqdn R.A.F. to Balloon Command, 1330/21) 1049/21. 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1411/21, 1625/21) Departures for Ramsgate (N.C.S.O. Thames 1648/21).

F.N. 64. List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1426/21). Southend 21/12, departure for Harwich with F.S. 64, LARCHOL and TURQUOISE. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1439/21).

F.S. 66. Sailed 1400/21 - 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1545/21) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1638/21) Code word after passing Tyne - Area 2. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2254/21) 4 ships and 1 trawler from Humber joining. (C.in C. Rosyth 2052/21)

O.B.M. 263. Sailed 1618/21. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. 6. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1645/21) List (1700/21) Proceeded to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1750/21).

O.B.M. 264. Sailing 1340/23. ROSEMARY. 10. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1645/21).

H.X.96. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D., 1700/21) Not to arrive at R.V. till 0900/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1908/21 to RANFURA).

O.B. 263. F.O.I.C's 0146/21 (Port of Liverpool closed.) O.B. 263 delayed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1705/21, C.in C. W.A., 1852/21) My 1839/19. O.B. 263 will not disperse till 25° 00' W. is reached. (D.T.D., 1902/21).

/ F.N. 63. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N. 64 and F.S. 66. — Additional escort, WIDGEON.

O.B. 262. — Londonderry departures 21/12 BROKE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE, HELIOTROPE, ANEMONE, ST. KENAN, ST. ZENO for O.B.262. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0947/21).

W.N. 56. — W.N.56 expected time of arrival Rattray Head 2000. Request all lights. (SAVOTTE 1059/21).

W.N.56. — Scapa departures 1045 ALYNBANK for Convoy W.N. 56. (A.C.O.S. 1101/21).

H.X. 95. — Meet H.X.95 unescorted, 24 ships 1000/23. (C.in C. W.A. 1152/21 to ABERDEEN, WOLVERINE, CAMELLIA, ARBUTUS, COLUMBINE.)

Troops. — Your 93423 (Q(M)2) 18/12. Further to 277/2 of 20th. Agree no troops to be embarked. Movements Commandeth Lisburn 1217/21, to W.O.).

S.L.60. — Sailing telegram. S.L.(slow) 60. 1100 G.M.T./21. Commodore Swabey R.N.R. ST. CLEARS (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1329/21).

2 M.V's. — My 1443/21 (re 2 M.V's escorted by LORD ESSENDEN and RULY), sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1736/21).

? — Southbound Convoy 1500/21. Escort LADY LILLIAN. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1750/21).

E.N. 45. W.N. 58. — Sail at 1415/22 for Methil. Act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N. 45 sailing at 1830/22. On meeting transfer to W.N. 58 due Cape Wrath 0530/24 and Duncansby 1830/24. Code word for E.N. 45 "might" and for W.N. "metric". (C.in C. Rosyth 1801/21 to JASON).

KENT. — KELVIN and KIPLING should meet you at 1000 B.S.T./23. Route to Plymouth. Fighter protection will be arranged. (C.in C. W.A., 1846/21, to KENT.)

F.N. 65. — Convoy F.N. 65, 0900/22, ships to date 29, additional escort A/S Trawler SAPPHIRE, BASSET and TURQUOISE joining from Harwich. (C.in C. Nore 2146/21 to WALLACE, VIVIEN).

C.W.20. Shelled. — C.W.20 passed Dover at 2110. Batteries at Wi[illegible] and Gris Nez fired about sixteen rounds between 2037 and [illegible] of which six fell in Dover Harbour and one probably behind the town. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 2325/21, amended no T.O.O./22).

/ Convoy Cycles. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoy Cycles.

Your 2158/20. Concur proposals.
Assume no convoy will exceed 40 ships.
Following are my remarks on part (iv)
O.G. Convoys do not disperse.
H.G. 49 will be met on (date) and H.G.50 on (date) not H.G.60. (C.in C. W.A. 1218/21, to Admty.)

Independent Sailings.

Cancel my 1157/15/11 and amend para. (a) of my 1612/19 to read as follows.
(A) All independently sailed ships between the U.K. and North America and West Indies are to be routed so as to cross 25° W. between 59° 30' N. and 63° N. and are not to be routed south of 59° 30' N. between meridians of 25° W. and 15° W. Those sailing between the U.K. and S. Atlantic and West African ports are to be routed so as to cross 40° N. between 19° W. and 33° W., keeping out of sight of land when passing or proceeding through the Azores, and to the Westward of 25° W. when north of 50° N. These ships should cross 25° W. between 56° N. and 59½° N. and may pass north or south of but not less than 70 miles from Rockall.
Care should be taken not to establish focal points particularly in the neighbourhood of 36° N. and 25° W.
(D.T.D. 1859/21 to N.C.S.O's).

Troop Convoys.

T.C.8.

Your 1909/14 and C.O.A.C. Halifax's 0253/17, request confirmation that COLUMBIA is in T.C.8. and what numbers are on board.
(D. of S.T. 0201/21 to H.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

My 0188/17 following are details of numbers on board vessels of T.C.8. PASTEUR, CAPETOWN CASTLE and PENNLAND. Dutch vessel COLUMBIA is also included in T.C.8. with troops on board and details will be signalled later.
Details of commercial cargo on board all vessels will also be signalled.
(D.S.T. 0205/21, to P.S.T.O. Clyde, D.S.T.O. Glasgow).

T.C.8.

Undermentioned destroyers are to meet convoy T.C.8 in position 57° 00' N. 22° 00' W. at 1300/22 B.S.T. and escort to Clyde in two portions as follows:-
(A) OTTAWA (S.O.), ST. LAURENT.
LE TRIOMPHANT, PIORUN, WORCESTER
WATCHMAN escort PASTEUR, CAPETOWN CASTLE
speed eighteen knots.

(B) BATH (S.O.) ST.MARY'S, MONTGOMERY, WITHERINGTON, WITCH speed 13½ knots.
(C.in C. W.A. 1304/21, to REVENGE, OTTAWA, BATH).

/ Twelve hours ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Troop Convoys.(Contd.)

	Twelve hours after parting company report position course and speed of convoy T.C.8.
T.C.8.	For CAPETOWN CASTLE only. If not met by escort at rendezvous your convoy is to continue on approach course for 67 miles. (D.T.D. 1330/21 to C.B.M.S. Area 1).
T.C.8.	Following sent to CAPETOWN CASTLE. If not met by escort at rendezvous your convoy is to continue on approach course for 67 miles. (D.T.D. 1330/21 to C.B.M.S. Area 1).
T.C.8.	Following sent to CAPETOWN CASTLE. If not met by escort at rendezvous your convoy is to continue on approach course for 67 miles 1330/21. (D.T.D. 2248/21 to C.in C. W.A.).
W.S.5A.	My 2230/20. From position 054 degs. 10' North 025 degs. 00' West W.S.5A Fast and Slow proceed as one convoy speed 11 knots. (V.A.N.P. 1230/21 to Western Patrol).
W.S.5A.	My 1603/21 (Sailing of DUNEDIN to R/V with W.S.5A.) sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1821/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Repatriees.

Your 1064/20. I was instructed that it was most urgent I should obtain ships to repatriate French nationals from Freetown. After lengthy negotiations with Portuguese authorities and shipping companies the COMPANHIA COLONIAL agreed to take these troops on my undertaking that they would not be interfered with by our patrols due to fact that they were calling at Casablanca. In fulfilment of this pledge I sent my signal to F.O.C. N.A. as I thought it quite probable that our patrols, if they saw this ship apparently breaking our blockade, would seize her whether she carried a navicert or not. Regret I did not make position clear to F.O.C. N.A. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1215/21 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

BERWICK.

Your 1805/20. Intend to sail BERWICK 1600/21 to join convoy A.M. 24/12. (F.O.C. N.A. 1014/21 to Admty.)

Gibraltar arrival 0503/21 departure 1600 BERWICK to join W.S.5A in accordance with her 0740/19. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1648/21).

H.M.S. BERWICK sailed to rendezvous with you during daylight a.m. 24/12. (F.O.C.N.A., 1840/21 to F.O.C. 15th C.S.).

BERWICK sailed 1600/21 routed through 036° 00' N. 011° 00' W. 046° 00' N. 026° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 2141/21).

CIRCASSIA.

My 1130/20 CIRCASSIA bent starboard propeller while berthing. Divers' examination shows necessity of fitting spare propeller. Intend docking ship 24/12 and cleaning bottom, which is due. Anticipate ship will be ready for service p.m. 28/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1206/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Convoy.
Bordeaux.
Lisbon.

1927/16. Reference British Consul Lisbon Arfar 959 16/12. It is probable that convoy would be forced to navigate outside three mile limit on Portuguese coast only between 4128 and 4142 north as sea breaks heavily in depths up to 25 fathoms if there is any swell. (N.A. Lisbon, 1233/21 to Admty.)

/ UPHOLDER,
USK
UNIQUE. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

UPHOLDER,
USK,
UNIQUE.

UPHOLDER course position and speed 1200 21/12 037° 54' N. 010° 55' W. 132° 8 knots routed through 036° 46' N. 009° 22' W. to Gibraltar. USK position course and speed 1200 21/12 040° 42' N. 010° 40' W. 180° 8 knots route as for UPHOLDER. UNIQUE expected to have crossed 041° 00' N. in meridian 010° 45' N. at 0001 21/12 speed 8 knots route as for UPHOLDER. (F.O.C.N.A. 1431/21 to BRIDPORT).

UNIQUE

Your 0030/21 adjust speed to R/V 1100/22 in 260° Cape Trafalgar 25 miles with ERIN who will escort you to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1628/21 to UNIQUE).

Daily Summary Operations.

2 routine A.S. patrols. (200 Group, 1710/21 to Air Min.)

Suspicious Ship.

Position 38° 58' N. 22° 32' W. THALA sighted suspicious ship 1730 G.M.T. (Via Lyness 1735/21).

Following has been read:-
Confirmation ? ? ? 20/21 cancel My 17 (? group omitted) 21 vessel identified. (THALA, 1950/21 to Gibraltar W/T). Remainder of message undecypherable. Presumably refers to 1735/21 received via Lyness W/T .

DURHAM,
MONARCH OF BERMUDA
ALICE ROBERT

DURHAM Capetown 8/12 Liverpool 14 knots 009° S. 012° W. 009° N. 021° W. 016° N. 021° W. 029° N. 022° W. 038° N. 023° W. MONARCH OF BERMUDA Freetown 19/12 Liverpool 17 knots 011° 23' N. 020° 08' W. 022° 58' 022° 38' 035° 20' 021° 17' 048° 35' 024° 50'. French ALICE ROBERT Dakar 17/12 Northward. Four French submarines left Dakar 18/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1912/21).

South Atlantic.

Enemy Raider.

Admiralty's 2316. There are indications that an enemy surface unit in area probably J 36 A and I 36 C. (C.in C. S.A. 0009/N/21 to HERMES).

My 0009/N. More reliable indications suggest square J 35 B and D. 45% probability within 10 miles either side of a line joining position 010° 30' S. 013° 40' W. and 012° 20' S. 013° 20' W. (C.in C. S.A. 0205 N/21 to HERMES).

My 2316/20. Additional bearings:- Freetown 001/1. Ascension 340/3 (flat). (D.D.I.C. 0315/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

By D/F 0059/21 G.M.T. enemy surface vessel indicated in area 35° N. to 43° N. 47° W. to 57° W.
Bearings: Simonstown 309/2. Freetown 325/2. Bermuda 050/3. (D.D.I.C. 0904/21 to Force K).

/ If raider was ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

If raider was not near line given in 0205/21 at 2108 2/20 next most likely areas are in order of probability of vicinity of 018° S. 013° W. or 029° ? S. 011° W. (C.in C. S.A. 0959/21 to HERMES).

Your 0904/21. Uncorrected north westerly bearings from Freetown often contain plus errors. Correction minus 8° should probably have been applied. This suggests most likely area enclosed by line joining position 042° N. 052° W. 040° N. (?049°) W. 037° 30' N. 054° 30' W. 039° N. 056° W.
(C.in C. S.A. 1113/21 to Admty.)

HAWKINS.
NEPTUNE.

805. As it appears likely raider is South it is for consideration if other escort can be provided for W.S. five A that HAWKINS should be (? retained) either (? to ? reinforce) force L or form a group with DEVONSHIRE due Simonstown 27/12. HAWKINS sails from Simonstown for Freetown 21/12 and for present will be available for either purpose. If more definite information becomes available that raider is South rather than North NEPTUNE might be used for W.S.5A.
(C.in C. S.A. 1251/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Raider,
Force K.

0005/19 Admiralty. Force K to proceed from 039° 30' N. 033° 20' W. on route approximately through 032° N. 028° W. 015°N. 027° W. thence to Freetown and carry out search on passage. Traffic between U.K. and South except for route of convoy S.L.30 lies east of a line between eastern extremity of Azores and Cape Verde Is. Object is to cover an area to west of this traffic through which a raider might approach to attack traffic and to be in position on passage to take advantage of any raider reports from traffic area. Request Admiralty inform me when Force K sailed or will sail in order that destroyer rendezvous may be arranged.
(C.in C. S.A. 1221N/21 to S.O. Force K).

Your 1221/21. 1700 18/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 2246/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Capetown arrival 20/12.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0703Z/21).

LORNASTON

Overdue ships my 1015 20/12 LORNASTON arrived Durban. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0935Z/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN ADELAIDE. Overdue shipping. QUEEN ADELAIDE departure Milford Haven 17/11 for Alexandria via Cape not reported Cape. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 09458/21).

A/C Transport. Air Min. has informed R.A.F. Takoradi 1735/20 that FURIOUS carries 40 Hurricanes with certain spares which will be flown off, also 4 stressed skin Hurricane mainplanes 80 guns 46 cases valves to be unloaded at Freetown for onward passage to Takoradi. Presume you can arrange for DELHI to embark these items for transport to Takoradi during operation "Monsoon". (D.O.D.(P) 1144/21 to C.in C. S.A.)

GUINE Your 2043/17. N.C.S.O. Lisbon's 1616/19 reported Portuguese ship GUINE arriving Freetown about 31/12 to repatriate 330 persons. Ministry of Shipping are requesting him to charter further ship to take remaining 200. (Head of M. 1252/21).

CARNARVON CASTLE repairs. C.in C. S.A. 1205/16.
(1) Investigation by Dockyard Officers shows that damage to internal installations such as fire control, fire main, sanitary system degaussing, etc., is greater than originally anticipated although damage to structure is not so serious since temporary repairs at Monte Video.
(2) The following are alternative proposals.
(a) Time required to make good action damage at Capetown three months. At end of this period it would be desirable to dock ship at Simonstown for one week. Main engine refit could be done concurrently with damage repairs provided spare parts from U.K. are delivered by early February. Other refitting work would extend time probably by six weeks.
(b) Alternatively temporary repairs could be limited to what can be done concurrently with degaussing. Time required three and a half weeks. Some main engine defects could be done concurrently but major defects could not be done owing to lack of spare parts from U.K.
(c) A second alternative is to send ship elsewhere in her present condition.

/ (3) ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE repairs. (Contd.)

(3) I recommend proposal in para 2(b) but would point out that ship could not be considered a fully efficient fighting unit and that escort may be necessary if proceeding to U.K.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 1543B/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

Foreign Legion Movement.

My 1943/11 and previous signals on this subject. Following arrangements made. PORT LAMY with Motor Transport 50 personnel of Foreign Legion left Duala 19/12 bunkering Port Harcourt embarked at Point Noire six officers and 60 Moroccan thence to Port Sudan via Cape. Remainder of French Legion personnel will sail from Duala 24/25 in TOUAREG and CAPOOLMO for Freetown and transhipment to NEURALIA.
Exhaustive enquiry shows that nothing is known of existence of French Brigade referred to in Director of Sea Transport's 2102/11 my 1951/12 and Admty. 2324/13.

ARNDALE.
NEWCASTLE.

Your 2115Z/18 fuelling completed ammunition transferred. ARNDALE anchored pig. Expected to arrive position 025° 30' S. 042° W. at 0830P/22.
(NEWCASTLE, 2241Z/21 to R.A.S.A.D.).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Castel Benito Aerodrome.

Attack on by 9 Wellingtons 148 Sqdn., 2320-2350/20, (4) and 0050-0130/21 (5). Special operational Summary I, 172. (H.Q. R.A.F. Mediterranean 0730/21).

Social Relations Egypt.

Chiefs of Staff No.36 to C.in C's re fostering friendly personnel relations with Egyptions. (I.S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1546/21).

Military Convoy.

Summary of cargoes in "Excess" ships - armaments, ammunition and aircraft. (D.O.D.(F) 2124/21 to C.in C. Med.)

Fast Personnel Ships.

Remarks on Adty. 2324/14/11 as to forces required. (C.in C. Med. 1945/21 to Adty) See Med. Vol.

Attack on Tripoli.

I.173 21/12. Special operational Summary night 20/21. 10 Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. despatched to attack Tripoli Harbour. 6 carried cucumbers and 4 carrying total load 22 bombs of 250 pounds each and 14 incendiaries. At 0403 cucumber aircraft detached in vicinity of Ras Ta Jura at 6,000 feet. Cucumber aircraft lost touch with leaders whilst losing height and all aircraft dropped cucumbers independently - 4 appeared planted south of main channel - 2 definitely in channel. Bomber flight proceeded to position 3 miles south of town when formation broke up and attacked at 2 minute intervals after first flare. 8 bombs fell in sea. 6 bombs on seaplane station. 1 bomb on road short of hangar. Direct hits on main hangar followed aided by minor explosions same hangar. 2 bombs on slipway. Fire seen during all 20 minutes when aircraft over target. 8 bombs fell on landing quay northern Mole of which 6 on warehouses. Small fires seen near warehouses by subsequent aircraf A.A. fire heavy and fairly accurate over target. Firing observed from at least 2 Guns situated around town. Light A.A. ineffective being directed against flare Cucumber aircraft not attacked. Searchlights nil. Weather conditions All aircraft returned untouched by A.A (H.Q. Malta, 1100/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Report.

1. Egypt. (R.A.F. operations in Libya, no naval items).
2. Greece. Operations against Brindisi night 19/20th Dec. and Berat day 20/12 reported in H.Q. B.A.F. Greece signal A.225 Day 20.9. Gladiators intercepted large number of enemy bombers escorted by many fighters and shot down 2 S.79's and 1 S.81 confirmed damaging others. Locality of interception not reported.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1232/21).

TRITON
NARVAL
Cost.

Regret to report TRITON and French submarine NARVAL are now overdue three and four days respectively and must be presumed lost. TRITON was operating in Southern Adriatic and French Submarine NARVAL off East coast of Tunisia.
(C. in C. Med. 1357/21).

Malta
Air
Report.

'I' 170 21/12. Combined services report Malta up to 17 hours 21/12. All times G.M.T. Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Naples. 2 battleships moored along north side of Molo Angloiro. 4 cruisers, one of which is in dry dock. 2 destroyers, 2 M/V's 5,000 proceeding from Pantellaia northwards. Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Spezia. 1 Cavour battleship, 2 Condottieri B class c cruise s, 1 Trento class cruiser, 5 modern destroyers, 3 smaller destroyers, 1 submarine. Considerable M/V shipbuilding along N.E. shore. 2 M/V's 4,000 tons and several smaller. 20 miles north of Maritiom Aegedean Islands - 1 submarine on surface course 140 towards Palermo. Photos taken Spezia 3,000 feet. Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Tripoli. In harbour - 3 destroyers. 3 torpedo boat destroyers, 3 M/V's 8,000 tons, 5 M/Vs 6000 tons, 6 smaller M/V's weather fine. Photos taken 16,000 feet. No opposition. 16.08 - 15.00 Sunderland reconnaissance western Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. No ships seen. Operations by Wellington 148 Squadron night 20/21/12. Against Castel Benito reported in my 'I' 172 21/12 and b Swordfish No. 30 Squadron against Tripoli night 20/21/12. In my 'I' 173 31/12. No enemy air activity over Malta today.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. 1700/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Dodecanese. Your 0012/19. It is confirmed that Rhodes and Kos were the two islands mentioned in my 1651 of 11th December.
(C.in C. Med. 1921/21 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence. Source (B.3.) reports five German merchant vessels carrying German troops sailed from Trieste yesterday evening for unknown destination. Persistent rumours of German troop movements into North of Italy continue here. (A.N.A.Belgrade 1218/21 to C.in C. Med.) N.I.D. Note. Several reports were received at the end of November of troops having embarked on German ships at Trieste but no confirmation has been forthcoming that German troops were included. Many unconfirmed rumours of the presence of German troops in Trieste have also been received and it is therefore possible that this new report may be true.

Shore-Based Air Recco. Inadequate. Again draw attention to inadequate shore based air reconnaissance in Mediterranean. This is due to no fault of those concerned in its operation but to shortage of aircraft We have been carrying out important operations of passing through MALAYA and 2 M.T. ships to Western Mediterranean without any idea of whereabouts of main Italian unit (See Adty. 1742/20 para.(b)). Unless this reconnaissance can be improved it would be unwise to carry out any operations of type proposed in Adty. 2324 of 24/11.
(C.in C. Med. 1941/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CARTHAGE. CARTHAGE sailed in accordance with C.in C. East Indies' 1128/19. (to cover trade routes and then to Bombay after 24th Dec., for refit).
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0852Z/21 to Adty etc.)

Force "Assurance". Force "Assurance" will be ready to sail Bombay 23/1/41 for Port Sudan. Consisting four personnel and four M.T. ships. Names will be given later.
(S.S.T.O. India (Bombay 1055Z/21 to C.in C. E.I.)

FALMOUTH SEABELLE. My 0608/16. para 2., the periods to be spent by FALMOUTH and SEABELLE at Bombay will be regarded as annual refit and docking periods and all defects should be made good.
(C.in C. E.I. 1246Z/21 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf etc.).

COLOMBO, Mogadishu. My 1456/20. COLOMBO reports no shipping at Mogadishu.
(C.in C. E.I. 1628Z/21 to Adty etc.)

Assab, Air Raid. Summary No. 192 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 21/12. 3 Blenheims 8 Squadron attacked Harsile pumping station 3¾ miles south of Assab Salt pans at 1010 G.M.T. no direct hits, damage improbable,
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1700/21).

Free French Movements. From De Schompre for De Gaulle. No.37 A.M. starting organisation committee. (Appointments). I leave the committee of Batavia as it is. I am asking all those committees to send me their financial requirements.
(C.in C. China, 0213Z/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

KONGSO, ELSIE MOLLER, (Br. 1136 tons).

British ship KONGSO chartered to Chinese having cleared for Haikow 1/12 proceeding to Wenchow against express instructions from N.C.S.O. When at anchor off Wenchow Point 4/12 ship was boarded by Japanese who demanded ship's papers and disabled one engine by removal of the heavy part of the machinery. On leaving they took Russian Master and Charterer's representative to Destroyer. ELSIE MOLLER in company weighed escaped into Wenchow. Same night Destroyer bombarded shore forts near by endangering berth whereon Chief Officer weighed proceeded into Wenchow where ship now remains. Am informed Master and Chinese now held on board German Mohlenhof detained at Tinghai. Chatereres claim to have had permit to enter Wenchow from Japanese Chamber of Commerce. Hence protested and demanded immediate return of personnel and machinery. Have also protested recent removal of main stop valve of EDITH MOLLER now under detention at Tinghai.
(N.L.O. Shanghai, 0303/21 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Laying of A/S device in Gulf of Paria.

Following from British Minister Caracas begins: So far as I am concerned laying of A/S device in Gulf of Paria can proceed. In view of probable Venizuela protest loop laying should be done as unnoticeably as possible since while I am prepared to express regret for violation of Venezuela waters by our ships and to explain reason in general terms the presence of A/S device if included in protest will necessitate very delicate negotiations and if there is any possibility of device being laid undetected and so remaining I should much prefer position of GAINER. Ends. Request permission to proceed with laying of loops 6 and 7.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0947/21 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Enemy Raider.

D/F bearings indicate enemy surface vessel in area 035° N., to 043° N., 047° W to 057° W at 0059Z/21. Keep as far to Westward as possible without delaying arrival at junction with H.X.98.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1041/21 to VOLTAIRE).

My 1041/21. Amend possible enemy area to read area enclosed by line joining 042° N., 052° W., 040° N., 049° W., 037° 30'N., 054° 30'W., 039° N., 056° W.
On completion of fuelling search at 18 knots direct towards B.H.X.98 junction position 044° 55'N., 051° 55' W. At sunset 23/12 alter course to pass through (a) 041° N., 051° W (b) 038° N., 055° W., thence return to Bermuda.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1551/21 to CARADOC).

HOPEPEAK, KOTA AGOENG.

HOPEPEAK sailed Townsville 12/11 KOTA AGOENG sailed Penang 17/12 have not arrived Panama.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1041/21 to Adty).

MALOJA.

S.C.17 Ocean Escort MALOJA instructed to leave Convoy 36 hours before arrival at rendezvous to return to Halifax.
(F.O. 3rd B.S. 1201/21 to Adty).

HAMILTON.

Your 2041/11/11, my 1711/23/11. It is assumed Admiralty will pay cost of repairs as a result of damage caused by stranding HAMILTON at St. John NB. Canada to pay for alterations and additions to fit her for use in R.C.N. as in the case of other Town Class Ex-American taken over by us.
(C.N.S. Canada 1239/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 21.12.40. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

SALISBURY, RICHMOND, NEWPORT.

SALISBURY, RICHMOND, NEWPORT arrived here 1500.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's 1245/21).

Dutch Submarines.

N.C.S.O. Mersey and Glasgow are instructing masters that Dutch S/M's are frequently on patrol in the vicinity Curacao and Aruba. S.N.O. Curacao reports no longer on patrol.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1750/21 to Adty).

CARADOC.

Bermuda 21/12 CARADOC arrived 1300 Q sailed 1700 Q in accordance with my 1551/21 (C.in C. A.W.I. 1803/21).

Halifax Force.

Your 1831/21. Intend proceeding in RESTIGOUCHE with ASSINIBOINE COLUMBIA and ST. FRANCIS at 0400/22 arriving position 039° N., 056° W. at daylight 23/12 thence sweeping to North Eastward.
(S.O. Halifax Force, 2310/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Force K.

Your 2151/14 and my 0005/19. Force K. is now proceeding to Freetown. Admiralty intention is to direct the general area in which Force K. is to operate and then place the force under the detailed direction of the C.in C. concerned.
(D.O.D.(F) 2339/21 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

Nauru Raider.

Your 1436/20, It has been decided that no publicity will be given at present to raider incident at Nauru and any messages for Press arriving here will be stopped. Phoscom Cheltenham will be informed confidentially of Minister's statement for private information of next of kin and also of above decision.
(D.F.D. 2127/21 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

MONOWAI
A.P.1.

Departure Auckland 2215Z/21 H.M.S. MONOWAI for Convoy A.P.1.
(S.O.I. Wellington, 2331Z/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HEINRICH ARP. Left Ferrol 0001/21, destination unknown. (Oregatt, Coruna, 1910/21). Informing North Atlantic Station. (F.O.C.N.A. 1505/21). Informing S/M's on Patrol, Area B, (V.A.S., 2111/21).

REORNSBURG. Yokohama reports sailed p.m./20. (C.O.S., Singapore, 0529/21).

VARNA. Arrived in ballast for bunkering. (Varna, 1200/21).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAYA Arrived with 5000 tons gas oil from Batoum. (Varna, 1200/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

PENDRECHT.
(torpedoed 18/12) — Arrived LEGION escorting torpedoed tanker PENDRECHT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0308/21).

FARMSUM
(torpedoed 2/12) — Arrived AMBUSCADE with 15 injured of FARMSUM. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0737/21).

O.G. 47.
Convoy. — O.G.47 attacked at 2117 in 40.47 N., 16.47 W. Am not in contact. Search being made with star shell. (LEITH, 2146/21 to F.O.C.N.A.) Informing North Atlantic Station. (F.O.C.N.A., 2345/21).

Submarines Reported.

0810. — 1 s/m bearing 340° distance 1 mile, course unknown, my position 56.20 N., 16.25 W. (ARGUS to Plymouth W/T, 0810/21). My 0810/21). My 0810, HIGHLANDER is investigating. (ARGUS, 0850/21) U/B sighted by ARGUS (position). Carry out search with your destroyers for as long as fuel permits. (C.in C. H.F., 0957/21, to BEDOUIN). Informing BEDOUIN that HIGHLANDER is also investigating. (C.in C. W. A. 1134/21).

1058. — Probable U/B south of Freetown, most likely position within 50 miles of 01° N., 11° W. (C.in C. S.A., 1058/21 to C.B.M.S., SA).

0800/20. — Graded as known fact, s/m on surface 6 miles N.W. Smalls at 0800/20 steaming fast S.S.W. (Dublin, 1210/21 to Admty.)

1447. — D.F., U-boat report 58½° to 59°N., 17° to 17½° W., good fix. (C.in C. W.A., 1530/21 to ships in W. App. North).

1622. — D.F., at 1522/21 G.M.T. Italian U/B within 60 miles of great circle joining 42° N., 17° W., and 36° N., 22° W. (D.D.I.C. 1750/21).

2014. — D.F., at 1914/21 G.M.T., estimated position of U/B in vicinity of 34°15' N., 16° 20' W. (D.D.I.C., 2349/21).

Estimated U/B dispositions. — Italian.
1 may still be to westward of Madeira.
1 or 2 patrolling in Azores area.
1 probably Italian off Cape Juby.
4 in N.W. Approaches between 54 degrees N. and 47 degrees N. 17 degrees W. and 20 degrees W. of which 2 or more may be between 55 degrees N. and 56 degrees N. 18 degrees 30' W. and 20 degrees W.

/ German ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (contd.)

German. 1 or 2 to westward of Sierra Leone.
Possibly 1 to southeastward of Rockall.
1 in 56 degrees 30' N. 16 degrees 25' W. at 0810/21.
Possibly 1 to northwestward of Rockall.
3 between 20 degrees W. and 22 degrees W. may be respectively about 58 degrees N. 59 degrees N. and 60 degrees N.

(D.D.I.C. 1237/21.).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

In view of the recent heavy minelaying in the Yantlet Channel of the Thames Estuary special vessels mounting naval U.P. weapons are being sited in that area; and it has now been agreed with the Air Ministry that hostile minelaying A/C should in future be engaged by A/A Defences including Searchlights whenever there is a reasonable chance of success and even though the Searchlights so used may disclose local objectives, to the enemy.

Small forces of our heavy bombers attacked Lorient, Brest and Bordeaux last night causing in all cases fires in the Dock areas, and in one case, severe damage to a jetty; and mining operations off one of Germany's main Ports were also sucessfully completed by our aircraft during the night.

A heavy air-attack coming chiefly from Dieppe and the Channel Islands was concentrated tonight on Liverpool - Manchester area; and it is reported today by F.O.I.C. Liverpool that the Naval Victualling Depot in Melias Buildings, Liverpool, was entirely destroyed by fire and H.E. Bombs during last night's air-raid together, it is feared, with all its stores and records, as well as the Sub-Depot at Preston. Some damage was also caused last night to FORESIGHT during the same raid; and no destroyer or sloop escorts can be sailed from Liverpool until the damaged Hydraulic pressure in the Docks has been restored. An H.E. Bomb fell at 1950 today in the Camber at Portsmouth, sinking 3 boats, as well as some Incendiary bombs in VERNON and many in the Town; but no naval casualties were caused. All our East Coast Convoys were reported by enemy aircraft today, but no convoy was attacked. An enemy A/C passed over the Firth of Forth at 1405 today and, owing to some misapprehension of her character, was not engaged.

Considerable enemy air activity was observed in the Thames Estuary last night and at 1123 today a Mine exploded close to GARTH off Sheerness causing some damage to her engines. At 1526 the British Tanker KLAX was mined, but not sunk, off No.10 buoy at Liverpool; a Tug was mined and sunk at 1915 off the Canada Dock there; and at 2320 the port of Liverpool was closed.

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Raider Hunt.

R.A. South American Division hopes to concentrate about 24/12 in South Rio area. Failing further information he will remain there until about 26/12 and then gradually move south to the Plate.

DUQUESA, 8651 tons, which reported she was being shelled by a raider on 18/12 has not arrived at Freetown. She was due on 19/12. from Montevidio.

Mediterranean.

HYPERION. Mined.

The destroyer HYPERION was mined and sank at 0853 this morning 25 miles W.N.W. of Pantellaria. Only 3 Mediterranean destroyers will therefore be available for S.O.Force H for Operation "Excess". Including CAMERON (feared a total loss after an air raid on Portsmouth on 5/12) this makes a total of 40 destroyers lost since war began.

America and West Indies.

Convoy Escorts.

C.N.S. Canada, has been asked if any further escorts can be provided for shipping in the N.W. Approaches during the lean period of the next two months, after which our resources will increase considerably.

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

PRINCE ROBERT (Canadian A.M.C.) is to visit Valparaiso for 24 hours on 25/12 and afterwards resume patrol off Talcahuano.

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dutch T.B.Z.7. — To be paid off at Portsmouth.
(D.O.D.H. 1253/22 to C. in C.W.A.)

Use of Searchlights against Minelaying A/C. — Air Ministry and Admiralty agree that it is desirable that hostile mine-laying aircraft should be engaged by A.A. Defences whenever there is a reasonable chance of success and that attainment of this object outweighs risk that searchlights may disclose to enemy local features of objectives in their endeavours to illuminate target aircraft. Please issue orders therefore to effect that those searchlights sited to illuminate hostile mine-laying aircraft may engage such aircraft whenever conditions are suitable. (H.Q.F.C. 1540/22. to A.A.Command.

U.P. weapons against Minelaying A/C. — In view of recent hostile mine-laying activities in Eastern part of Yantlet Channel of Thames Estuary special vessels mounting naval twenty barrel U.P. weapons are being sited for protection against these activities. These vessels will be linked to A.A.Command shore system and will be under same fire control as A.A. guns. To reduce possible risk of these or other vessels opening fire on our own fighters operating low over Thames Estuary 11 group is to arrange to notify command operations officer before any such operations commence at night. Command operations officer will pass information immediately to Chatham area combined headquarters via direct lines of N.L.O. or C.C.L.O. at these headquarters.
(H.Q.F.C. 1540/22 to A.A. Command.)

Request your views on proposals as a whole.
(D. of L.D. 1856/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 1130/22. (D.C. 1154/22).
At 2330/22. (D.C. 2359/22).

Movements.

KEPPEL. — Sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 2230/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0926/22.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VETERAN. Sailed 0900 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0952/22.)

UNDAUNTED. Due sail for Clyde 29/12. E.T.A. Barrow 1000/28. Request Escort.(N.O.I.C.Barrow 1123/22 to C. in C.W.A.)

VIMY. Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1135/22.)

ROXBOROUGH. E.T.A. 1500/22. (ROXBOROUGH 1150/22 to N.O.I.C. Belfast) Arrived (N.O.I.C.Belfast 1515/22.)

COTSWOLD. Intend sailing 1730/22. E.T.A. Rosyth 0700/23. (R.A.D. 1435/22.) Sailed from Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1747/22.)

SALADIN. Arrived 1525. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1525/22.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 4 trawlers. (F.O.C.O.S. 1539/22.)

ROCKINGHAM. Arrived Plymouth 1500 (C. in C. W.A. 1646/22.)

SALOPIAN. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1755/22.)

Operations.

Iceland. H.M.T. VAN OOST sailed Reydarfjordur. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1201/22.)

H.U. Patrol. My 0920/22. Patrol not covered. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1717/22.)

Western Patrol. Orders for CAMITO, MARON, CAVINA, CIRCASSIA. (F.O.C.W.P. 1800/22.)

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

SEALION. Leaving 1100. Proceeding Northwards. (C. in C. Rosyth 0854/22.)

O.14. Arrived Dundee. (S.9. 1127/22.)

H.34. Request inclusion in W.N. Convoy sailing Clyde to Methil (S.7. 1134/22. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1510/22.)

MINERVE. Intend sail 1630/23 for Holy Loch with STELLA POLARIS (C. in C. W.A. 1554/22.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/23. (V.A.S. 1639/22.) (D.C. 1833/22.)

TRIBUNE. Attacked tanker with trawler and air escort course 140° in 046° 46' N 002° 38' W. at 1121/16. Also M/V escorted by one German MOWE class destroyer course 50° position 047° 21' N 004° 14' at 1012/19. Results of both attacks uncertain. Trawler patrol steering N.E. of 046° 51' N. 002° 14' W. at 2125/17 was only anti submarine patrol encountered. (TRIBUNE 1748/22 to Capt. S.2.)

Attacks on M/V's.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. 2 Blenheim Fighters leave Dyce 0845 to Flamborough and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0812/22). Patrols HORNLI, STAND, S.9. ordered today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0818/22.) Cancel SHARP. Weather unsuitable. (F. O. I. C. Portland 1010/22.)

TIRPITZ. Operations for 22 Sqdn. tonight as in my AP/689/21/12.(H.Q.C.C. 1235/22 to 16 Group, North Coates.)

Enemy Air Activity.

SUPERMAN. (Tug) Attacked 3 miles North of Rathlin Island. (Port Patrick Radio 0834/22.) Still being attacked. (C. in C.W.A. 08' to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ARINBJORN HERKIX.

Attacked by A/C between Overoaye and Mull of Kintyre. (Port Patrick 0903/22.) Proceed to assist (C. in C.W.A.1055/22 to ARABIS) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1109/22 to ENGLISHMAN, SUPERMAN.) Sailed ENGLISHMAN and SUPERMAN (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1214/22.) Ship abandoned. Tug rescued crew in 55° 28' N. 6° 22' W. C. in C. W.A. 1222/22 to ARABIS.) Arrived SUPERMAN at Campbeltown with survivors of ARINBJORN HERKIX (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1607/22 to C. in C. W.A.) Do you require assistance of ENGLISHMAN (H.O.I.C. Greenock 1850/22 to ARABIS.)

Harwich.

Bomb on CANOES Road at 1800/21. Minor damage, estimate £100. No casualties (Works, Shotley Gate 1035/22.)

Liverpool Air-Raid.

H.M. Naval Victualling Depot Melias Buildings Liverpool entirely destroyed by fire and H.E. last night 21/22. Feared all stores and records destroyed. Also Sub-Depot at Prestons Furniture Factory. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1223/22 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary.

A/C and Fireworks seen during Night 21/22. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1503/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

East Coast Convoys.

Enemy A/C have reported all Convoys on East Coast. (C. in C. Rosyth 1634/22.)

Liverpool. FORESIGHT. damaged.

Raid damage Night 21/22, H.M. Ships no damage except FORESIGHT near miss slight damage fore superstructure and hole above water line. Two merchant vessels sunk an six others damaged in North Docks. At least another 10 discharging berths out of commission all in Liverpool North Docks. Some damage to Bridge Sand, and GLADSTONE and CANADA systems again out of action owing to failure of hydraulic pressure. Until restored no destroyer or sloop escorts can be sailed. Considerable damage to sheds and warehouses both at Liverpool and Birkenhead, and Liverpool ship repair firms considerably affected but extent not yet known.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1701/22 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Firth of Forth. — Enemy R/C. Aircraft passed over Firth of Forth at 1405 today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1721/22.)

Portsmouth. — At 1950 a H.E. Bomb fell in South Camber sinking 3 boats. A few incendiaries in VERNON. No damage or casualties. 2 H.E. Bombs and many incendiaries in Town. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2244/22.)

Mining.

Off Aldeburgh. — Heavy Explosions heard to East of Aldeburgh. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1006/22.)

More. — At 1143/20 a mine exploded 50 yards from BERKELEY in 320° 3 cables from Outer Bar Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1006/22 to Adty.)

INTREPID. — Adty. 1545/21. Will be ready for sea PM/24. (F.O. Humber 1224/22.)

Dover. — Sweeping carried out 0800/21 to 0800/22. Q.Z.S.190 and 105 from Sandhend Buoy to No. 4 Buoy Swept 90%. Three sweeps cut by explosive cutters and one explosive cutter swept up in the channel. One mine cut close westward of the channel. Channel from Sandhead Buoy to A Buoy now considered clear but it is not intended to reopen until it has been reswept and clearance operations have been extended towards the shore. (V.A. Dover 1301/22.)

Thames Estuary. GARTH engine damage. — At 1123/22 a Mine exploded 50 yards from GARTH in 51° 29' 10" N. 0° 45' 3" E. causing some engine-room damage. (GARTH 1313/22 to Adty.).

Walton-on-Naze — At 1410 a loud Explosion and large column of water 150° 3 miles from Walton. Nothing near. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1415/22.)

Liverpool. — Port open (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/22.) Port closed owing to minelaying by A/C. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2320/22.)

FLAX. — (British Tanker, 7403 Tons) Mined off No.10 Buoy, Liverpool. Requires Tugs. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 1526/22 to Adty.) Position C.11. Red Buoy, River Mersey. Possibly safe. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1915/22 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

POOLOARTH. (Tug) Mined and sunk off Canada Dock South Pierhead. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1915/22.)

Harwich Area. Proposed sweeps. Weather permitting intend sailing 5 F M/S. (A) At 0830/29 to search 151 Q.Z.S. and part of 117 Q.Z.S. to 5 miles south of position X.
(B) At 1600/6 to search 117 Q.Z.S, commencing sweep at S falls at Daylight 7th.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1614/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich Area. One Mine detonated by L.L. Drifter at 1125/22 in 51° 48' 18" N. 1° 20' 51" E. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1657/22.)

Peterhead. Proposed Mine. Weather permitting. Intend sailing group 19 from Peterhead at 2359/22 to search War Channel from Buchanness 090° 6' to 58° 25' N 2° 40' W due 1200/23, then return search of War Channel ahead of W.N.57 to Buchanness 090° 6' due 2359/23, then return Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. 1750/22.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Kiel Canal blocked. (1) My 1628/20 to D.N.I. Observed at Gothenburg evening 21st three or four German steamers awaiting orders for southward voyage.

(2) German shipping agent informed dependable Swedish official that Kiel Canal expected blocked another eight days. He escribed blocking to British bombs. A one. (N.A. Stockholm 1134/22.)

Weser. Following vessels observed building on 2/12 on Weser River.(N.A. Stockholm 1140/22 to D.N.I.)

Main German Units. Positions on 29/11 and 14/12, 18/12, and 21/12. (D.D.I.C. 1216/22.)

Enemy Destroyers, Minelayers, and U-Boats. Positions on 21/12 by Air R/C.(D.D.I.C 1251/22.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ERNEBANK. (British, 5388 Tons) Tug ST. MARYS reports at 2040/21 ERNEBANK broken down in 55° 45' N. 22° 44' W. Requests Tug ST. MARYS leaving at midnight being short of fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 0606/22 to Adty.) Sailed SUPERMAN to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0555/22.) Request you detach WELLINGTON to stand by. (C. in C. W.A.0744/22 to BONAVENTURE). Intend sail Tug TENACITY PM/23. F. O.I.C. Belfast requested to sail SOUTHERN PRIDE to R/V with TENACITY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1939/22 to C. in C.W.A.) Proceed to R/V with SOUTHERN PRIDE in 000° Tony Island Light 10 miles at 0900/24 and then in company to 55° 45' N. 22° 44' W. to assist ERNEBANK. WELLINGTON is standing by. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1410/23 to TENACITY.) If you still need help report position, course and speed. (C. in C.W.A. 2156/23 to ERNEBANK) ERNEBANK located in 55° 57'N. 7° 23' W. Does not require assistance. (C. in C. W.A. 2110/24 to WELLINGTON.)

St. MARYS. Submit needs docking for repairs. (ST. MARYS 1054/22 to S.O. 1st. M/L Sqdn.) Arriving Lough Foyle 2000/23. Requires docking for repair of propellor and Asdic Gear. Request where to send her (R.A.M.L. 1042/23 to Adty.) E.T.A. Port Z.A.0900/24. (ST. MARYS 1908/23 to RAML.) Arrived Z.A. 0915/24.(TRELAWNEY 0920/24.)

LLANDILLO. (British, 4966 Tons.) Aground on More Sands. Bark broken amidships. Shall try to tow her further on sand next tide if floatable. (Capt.Brooks 1344/22 to Adty.)

CAMPANULA. (Corvette) Arrived with defects.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1757/22.)

H. 31. Following received from NIMROD begins. H 31 flooded from engineroom bulkhead aft. All crew safe. She is alongside quay with stern resting on bottom. Engine room hatch, both engine muffler valves, group exhaust valves and roturbo outlet open. Engine room bulkhead holding. Engine room hatch may clear at low water. Salvage pumps are standing by. 1945 Ends. Comdr. S with divers sent in Z 8. Expected time of arrival Campbeltown 2130. Salvage craft sailing from Rothesay.

(S.7. 2041/22 to V.A.S.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

H.31. Cause is understood to be accidental loss of buoyancy while alongside with after hatch open. (V.A.S. 2349/22 to Adty.) H.31 now afloat. Intend sail her for Rothesay at 0900/25. P.O.I.C. has arranged towage. (V.A.S. 2227/24 to Adty.)

ANTHIPPI N. NICHALDS. (Greek, 3298 Tons) Sunk in collision with BEAVERDALE, which is landing 26 survivors. (H.C.S.O. Belfast 2100/22 to Adty.)

BEAVERDALE. (British, 9957 Tons.) Arrived 1800/22, damaged by collision with ANTHIPPI N. NICHALDS.(H.C.S.O. Belfast 2100/22.)

ABERDEEN. Side plating slightly damaged by collision with COLUMBINE at 1900/22 in 61° 8' N.14° 25' W. Proceeding to R/V with HX.95. (ABERDEEN 2230/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

COLUMBINE. Corvette holed forward and fore-peak flooded by collision with ABERDEEN at 1900/12 in 61° 8'N. 14° 25'W. Proceeding to Stornoway via North Minch escorted by WOLVERINE. (ABERDEEN 2230/22 to C. in C. W.A.)Proceed forthwith to assist (P.O.I.C.Greenock 0419/23 to SUPERMAN) sailed SUPERMAN (P.O.I.C Greenock 0730/23.) Reports position at 1900/24 to be 60° N. 11° 45' W. steering 120° and making 8 knots (P.O.I.C. Greenock 1820/24 to SUPERMAN.)

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	Estimated positions at 0900/22 (D.T.D. 1141/22 to C. in C. H.F.).
C.K.20.	Intend to sail from St. Helens on 26/12. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to retain CATTISTOCK until sailing of convoy. (C. in C. Nore 0954/22).
F.N. 63.	My 1639/21. Tyne and Middlesbrough ships did not sail (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0955/22).
W.N. 55 + W.N. 56	Arrived 0930/22 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1001/22).
F.N. 63.	Humber ships arrived except ROSTERN (N.C.S.O Humber 1150/22).
F.N. 65. F.S. 65. F.S. 66.	Left Southen 1015/22) Due Southend 1700/22) (C. in C. Nore Due Aldeburgh 0800/23 + 1200/22).
S.L. 58.	Meet . Unescorted 31 ships 1000/24. Route (C. in C. W.A. 1224/22 and 2324/22 to BROKE, WELVIN, SHIKARI, KIPLING, SARDONYX, ANEMONE, LA MALOUINE, HELIOTROPE).
C.K. 20.	Arrived 1130 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1323/22).
H.X. and S.C. Routes.	Desirable to give more spread to H.X. and S.C. convoy routes over the present narrow lane on the Newfoundland Bank, by giving a more southerly route in your area to H.X. convoys which have the shorter ocean routes as issued by Admty. Positions should be included in Convoy sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1627/22 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).
S.L. 60.). S.L.S. 60).	List of ships delayed by mishaps etc. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 2011/22). S.L. 60 Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1817/22).

/F.S. 65.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd). Shipping. (continued).

F.S. 65. Your 2317/21. My position is 052° 37'N. 002° 09'E., speed seven knots. Fast ships could reach the Nore Light Vessel by 1500 at eight knots but slow ships are unlikely to reach The Nore before dark.
(WOLSEY 0330/22 to C. in C. Nore).

My position course and speed are TLCE 0952 210 degrees 12 knots. 27 ships of F.S. Convoy 65 now ahead of me, no others in sight. Consider six rear ships have little chance of arrival before dark.
(VERDUN 1045/22 to C. in C. Nore).

Your 0330. Those ships which can reach the Nore Light Vessel by 1700 are to enter gate tonight. Remainder are to anchor between B one and B three buoys. One escort is to remain in company of those anchored. Report whether fuel is essential for one or both escorts.
(C. in C. Nore 1046/22 to WOLSEY, VERDUN)

O.B. 262. OREGON destination changed to Houston.
(D.O.D. 1038/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

F.S. 64. F.N. 65. Order F.S. 64 to weigh and enter then join F.N. 65.
(C. in C. Nore 1153/22 to VIVIEN).

F.S. 64. Southend arrival 22/12/40 H.M.Y. RADIANT with Convoy F.S. 64.
(N.C.S.O. Thames. 1554/22).

S.L. 60. Departure 0600/22 BRIDGEWATER as local escort to Convoy S.L. 60.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1333N/22 to Admty).

E.N. 44. Your 1715/21 Rendezvous for two ships for Mumbles Head 057° 00'N. 007° 08'W at 1000 tomorrow Monday with E.N.44.
(C. in C. W.A. 1402/22 to N.C.S.O. Oban).

F.S. 66. VULCAN is to sail tomorrow Monday 23/12 to join F.S. 66 due the Sunk L.V. at about 1000/23. To Southend for onward routeing to Portsmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1541/22).

Humber 22/12 departure H.M.T. BOTANIC at 1400 to join F.S. 66 for Southend for onward routing to Dover.
(F.O. Humber 1610/22).

/O.B. 268.....

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd)
O.B. 268.

Shipping. (continued).

Request you will inform me whether CRISPIN will be ready to sail with O.B. 268.
(C. in C. W.A. 1626/22 to F.O.C.N.P.).

W.N.59.

Code "MUSTER" 1900/24 H.M. Trawlers CAPE MARIATO and INDIAN STAR. 16 Ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1741/22)

H.G. 48.

My 0945/22 to C. in C. W.A. only. Sailed ROSEMARY TO MEET H.G. 48 B.M. in splitting position.
(F.O. Milford H. 1742/22).

F.S. 67.

My 1550/22. MOOLTAN 2 hours ahead and F.S. 67 1 hour ahead. INVERLANE proceeded northwards in tow at 1700/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1808/22).

F.S. 69.

My 1217/20. Additional escort for F.S. 69 COTSWOLD.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1851/22).

E.N. 45.

1830/22 H.M.T's SPURS, FANDANGO Additional escort H.M.S. JASON. 16 ships. 3 ships for Clyde.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1951/22).

H.X. 95.

VETERAN sailed for Londonderry 0900/22 to meet H.X. 95. (C. in C. W.A. 2002/22 to ABERDEEN, WOLVERINE, CAMELLIA, ARBUTUS, COLUMBINE.

H.X. 98.

Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1123/22) Ships carrying war material.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1934/22)
Sailing telegram 1300A.S.T./22
Escorts LACONIA, VOLTAIRE (COAC. Halifax 1418/22).

H.X. 99.

Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1721/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (continued).

Troop Convoys.
T.C. 8.

Your 1329/21. At 1800 G.M.T./21 T.C. 8 in position course and speed 055° 57'N 029° 11'W, 075° 12½. Estimated 2 hours late at rendezvous. Expect to arrive Halifax 1900 G.M.T./25 approaching course 256 degs. (REVENGE 0249/22 to Admty).

My 1303/21. The two portions of convoy T.C. 8 are to remain in company until further orders. Route follows.
(C. in C. W.A. 1052/22 to OTTAWA, BATH).
Route for T.C. 8 from 57° 00'N 22° 00' West through:-
(A) 57 degs 18' North 20 degs 00' West.
(B) 57 degs 30' North 17 degs 30' West.
Further route follows.
(C. in C. W.A. 1111/22).

My 1111/22. Further orders will be given to proceed from position (b) either:-
(1) by south route through:-
(c) 56° 45'N 15° 00'W.
(d) 56° 45'N 11° 30'W.
thence to North channel,
or (2) by North route through:-
(c) 58° 30'N 13° 30'West
thence to North channel.
(C. in C. W.A. 1122/22 to OTTAWA, BATH).

Not met. My position, course and speed are 057° 00'N 021° 38'W 255° 15. Intend steering 075° at 1500.
(OTTAWA, 1415Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

(corrupt groups) 1328/22 convoy and (other) escorts not met. H.M.S. WATCHMAN in company. In view of weather conditions am returning to harbour.
(WORCESTER 1515/22 to C. in C. W.A).

Your 1515/22. It is important you should join the escort of this convoy should weather improve, although at present there is no such indication. Estimate position course and speed of convoy at 2030/22 is 057° 18'N 020° W routed through 057° 30'N 017° 30'W and 058° 30'N 013° 30'W thence to North Channel speed 12½ knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 2012/22 to WORCESTER).

/EUMAEUS.....

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (continued).

EUMAEUS

S.S. EUMAEUS with 100 naval personnel will be ready to sail from Liverpool on 27/12. C. in C. W.A. requested to sail EUMAEUS to R/V with SALOPIAN when letter is ready on or about 27/12 and to arrange A/S escort. SALOPIAN is to escort EUMAEUS to Western Patrol, whence EUMAEUS is to proceed independently as ordered by N.C.S.O. Liverpool. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/22).

LOCHNAGER.

VALENTINE Plan. LOCHNAGAR will sail unescorted under M.C. Edinburgh arrangements first week in January with not more than one hundred personnel.
(W.O. No T.O.O./22 to Movements Edinburgh).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Foreign Legion Movement.

Your 1943/14 as CAPO OLMO with crew of TOUAREG on board has not yet arrived Duala to avoid the possibility of delay by diverting SCYTHIA at present homeward bound from Capetown. Request you arrange accordingly.
(D. of S.T. 1153/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

French Repatriots.

Your 1215/21. When negotiating with Portuguese in similar cases any undertaking by you that ships will not be sent in to Gibraltar can and must only on subject to such ships obtaining a Ship Navicert at Freetown. Fears expressed in penultimate sentence of your 1215/21 are groundless as a ship holding ship Navicert would not be sent in if intercepted.
(D.E.W.D. 1128/22 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

North Atlantic.

Warning Submarines of attack on O.G.47.

Report from LEITH states convoy O.G.47 was attacked in position 040° 47' N., 016° 47' W at 2117/21.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0020/22 to TRIDENT, CACHALOT.)

Free French.

Admiralty has reported 100 Free French are in Tangier. Request information whether they have had Exit visas and if they would be brought to Gibraltar about 31/12 if VALKYRIEN and (? expenses) were sent them.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1154/22 to Consul General Tangier).

Daily Summary Operations.

Two routine A/S patrols.
(200 Group 1545/22 to Air Min.)

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

R/V of destroyers with Force K.

Your 1157/22. Confirmed.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2140/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

South Atlantic.

Coaling Freetown.

My 1633/10/8 and my 2035/12/11.
In order to carry all cargo possible from loading ports, coal burning ships for United Kingdom should take all advantage of increased bunkers now available at Freetown namely 400 tons per ship and should only bunker sufficient to allow this amount to be taken at Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 0301/22 to Capt: I/C Simonstown).

SOTRA.
SARA.
SOIKA.
SVANA.

SOTRA, SOIKA, SARNA and SVANA arrived here.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0400Z/22).

Italian Aircraft.

Italian Aeroplane left here yesterday afternoon December 21st carrying 500 kilogrammes of cargo including cigarettes coffee and Soap.
(Vice Consul Natal 0850/22 to Adty).

NORSEMAN.

Cable ship NORSEMAN now proceeding to 7° 23' S., 34° 35' W.
(1030/22).

Suspicious Ship.

A fully loaded tanker with Spanish colours painted on bows and quarters and word Espana on bridge structure and on board abaft the funnel was sighted in 031° 06' N. 021° 38' W at 1015 G.M.T. 5/12
Enquiries indicate tanker whose behaviour was suspicious was not spanish.
Description as follows, about 6,000 tons; black hull with short forecastle line flush to stern straight stem cruiser stern. White (? box) like bridge structure with taller cowls close abaft, white poop structure in middle of (? black) funnel average size with white band and red star device therein, derrick on fore side of foremast main mast half way between bridge and poop, structure no rake flying bridge, inconspicuous and tank (? tops/ invisible). (C.in C. S.A. 1133N/22 to S.A. Station Squadron.)

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Destroyers Force K.

My 1221 21/12 and my 1941/19/12 and your 1030 19/12. Request destroyers be sailed to rendezvous with Force K in position 015° 00' N., 027° 00' W. at 0900/N/30/12. Request confirmation that this can be done.
(C.in C. S.A. 1157N/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DORSETSHIRE, HAWKINS, BERWICK, DEVONSHIRE, NEPTUNE.

Your 1251/21. Two cruisers should escort W.S.5.A. Freetown to Durban DORSETSHIRE and HAWKINS considered most suitable. Consequents on this decision reference my 0005/19 para.2 BERWICK to join Force K instead of DORSETSHIRE after arrival of W.S.5.A. Freetown. Desired to send DEVONSHIRE and NEPTUNE home to U.K. as soon as situation allows. They are placed temporarily at your disposal and possibly you may consider it necessary to stiffen the escort for FURIOUS during operation Monsoon.
(D.O.D.(F) 2159/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

Whalers.

Departure P.M. 21/12 WHALERS SWONA SKUDD three four and five in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1301/12.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1315N/22).

Raiders Search.

Hope to concentrate about 24/12 in South Rio area. Failing further information will remain there until about 26/12 then gradually move south to Plate. Have ordered Oiler ARNDALE and BALTAVIA to Plate and Oiler BROOMDALE to return to Falkland Is. to load A.M.Cs will remain in focal areas to counter merchant ship raiders.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1400Z/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

ARNDALE, ENTERPRISE.

For Consul - requirements:- for ARNDALE and ENTERPRISE.
(ENTERPRISE, 1430Z/22 to N.S.C.(I) Montevideo).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

POLAR V.
SKUDD VI.

Sailed whale catchers POLAR V and SKUDD 6. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1659/22).

DUQUESA, overdue.

DUQUESA due Freetown 19/12 from Montevideo Departure 6/12 not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1836/22).
(Note: DUQUESA reported she was shelled by a raider on 18/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Policy.
Turkey.

Conversation 18/12 between Adm. Kelly and D.C.N.S. Turkey. (Ambassador, Turkey, to F.O., 0435/22) Chiefs of Staff No. 34. Views regarding assistance to Turkey. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1117/22). See Mediterranean Vol.

HYPERION, mined, sunk.

HYPERION mined and sunk in position 37.04 N., 11.31 E. ILEX returning to Malta. Only 3 Mediterranean destroyers will therefore be available to S.O. Force H for "Excess". (C.in C. Med., 0853/22).

Italian Morale.

Italian banker just arrived from Rome informed observer that Italian food still not bad but public very disturbed by recent resignations and by stories from Albania. Libya is too far away to affect them much.
British bombing causing alarm. If it continues and Greeks have further successes Italy will probably collapse. (Madrid, 1059/22, to Admty.)
(N.I.D. Note. No actual shortage of essential foods in Italy but prices are high.
Distinct lowering of Italian morale during past month, but though signs are encouraging it is not considered that an early break up of Fascist regime can yet be looked for.
All reports agree that British bombing is causing alarm and that its continuance is likely to have wide-spread effect.)

Mines.

Mines are reported in Sicilian Channel within 3.5 miles from 37.05 N., 11.32 E. (D.S. 475).

Malta Air Report.

Combined services Report - Malta up to 1700/22. All times G.M.T. 0540 - 1412 Sunderland reconnaissance North West Ionian Sea for naval and commercial units. Nil report. 0909 - 1300 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Palermo. Unable to take photographs due to low clouds and rain. In port - 2 cruisers - same position as yesterday - 8 M/V's 8000 - 10,000 tons. 1014 - 1522 Sunderland search for missing Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS, nothing seen. Night 21-22/12, 2230-0730, Sunderland moonlight A.S.V. patrol between Sicily, Sardinia and Tunis ahead of West bound convoy. 0515 1 ship seen, bot identified due darkness, position 37. 48 mins. N. 8. 39 mins. E., course 180 degrees, speed 20. 0745-0806 2 enemy formations approached from North East, 1 to within 10 miles of Grand Harbour and then receded, the other skirted island to

/ East ..

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report. — East and South before withdrawing. Our Hurricanes up; no interceptions. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 1719/22).

Air Report, Greece. — Ops. Summary No. 40. Raid on Durrazzo planned for 70 Squadron night of 21-22/12 cancelled owing adverse weather. No.84 Squadron provided 9 Blenheims for raid on oil plant at Kucove a.m.22/12. Photographs show all bombs 6 aircraft well in target area. Formation attacked by 5 Macchi 200 persistently for 15 minutes. 2 our aircraft shot down in flames crews believed lost, 5 aircraft hit explosive bullets and 2 air gunners wounded not seriously. One E.A. believed shot down. A.A. fire reported target area intense and most accurate encountered Albania. (H.Q. B.A.F. G., 1720/22.).

East Indies.

Minesweepers. — Your 1402Z/18. Intention that LL whale-catchers SOTRA, SOIKA SARNA, SVANA should proceed initially to Alexandria, subsequent movements of these ships being decided by C.in C. Med. (D.M S. 1224/22 to C.in C. E.I.).

China.

DAUNTLESS. — Penang arrival 21/12. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0449Z/22).

America and West Indies.

RESTIGOUCHE, ASSINIBOINE, SAINT FRANCIS. — Halifax departures 0400/22 RESTIGOUCHE ASSINIBOINE, SAINT FRANCIS. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 0730/22).

Laying of A/S device in Gulf of Paria. — Your 0947 December 21st. Approved. (C.in C. A. and W.I. 1052/22 to Capt I/C Trinidad).

B.H.X. 90. Conference. — Your 1409/20. Conference not held for B.H.X.90 because convoy consisted mainly of ships of B.H.X. 89 which had been recalled to Bermuda shortly after sailing. Conference for B.H.X. 89 had been held. All masters again seen by N.C.S.O. except 4 ships which subsequently arrived just in time to join B.H.X.90 on sailing. Allegation that N.C.S.O. does not believe in conference is incorrect. (C.in C. A.E.I., 1112/22 to Admty.)

/ PRINCE ROBERT. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

PRINCE ROBERT. My 1251/9. Proceed into Valparaiso a.m. 25/12 for 24 hours visit. On completion resume patrol off Talcahuano. Otiler SANADOLFO ordered rendezvous with you in 36° 40' S. 74° 00' W. at 1000Z/10/1/41. Callao pass PRINCE ROBERT.
(C.in C. A. and W.I. 1221/22 to PRINCE ROBERT).

H.X.90, Leakage, Bermuda. Your 1856/19. (Submarine attack on H.X.90) Investigations at Halifax Sydney and Bermuda have so far failed to find any cause of possible leakage and C.in C. A. and W.I. confident that no leakage at Bermuda.
Seven ships of which six neutral returned to Canada from H.X.90 for various reasons. Of these master of STAD Amsterdam had previously been suggested as anti-British but sealed envelopes in all these ships were correct on their returns. Master of Norwegian INGER who completed passage had previously been thought unreliable by N.C.S.O. Halifax. No previous suspicion of any other master or crew.
C.O.A.C. Halifax submits following suggestions: (a) in allocating standard route non-British ships should be farthest from convoy route.
(b) 2 terminals for standard route be provided 40 miles apart - B for British, N. for Non British.
(c) Ref. Admty. 1613/24/10. A further secret position should be established by N.C.S.O. Halifax (N.S.) and passed only to Admiralty in rerouteing convoy as a whole. This position to be passed in a signal of its own and not included in sailing telegram.
(d) Admiralty to make a practice of rerouteing all convoys about 8 days after sailing using specially secret position in (c) above. This would diminish possibility of leakage from this side or from ships originally sailing in convoy being of use to enemy.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1223/22 to Admty.)

Messages for Force K. and H.F. Ships. For security reasons until further notice Messages for S.O. Force K, Force K, C.S.15, FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK, BONAVENTURE, FURIOUS, ARGUS, DUNEDIN, NAIAD, and BERWICK are being routed on Broadcast H.D. and A. and W.I. and Gibraltar routines. During this period Delivery Groups from Reserve Block are being used for all Messages passed to these ships and Authorities. Ships are maintaining normal W/T Watch accordingly to the station on which they actually are.
(D.S.D. 1435/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/ IRENE MARIA ....

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

IRENE MARIA. Your 0230/29/11 Br. Ship IRENE MARIA has not yet arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1456/22 to M. of Shipping).

Scarcity of Escorts. Personal from First Sea Lord.
(A) The safety of shipping in North West Approaches is primarily a question of number of escorts available.
(B) Our resources will increase considerably in about a couple of months but in meantime very short of escorting craft.
(C) Can you give us any further help during this lean period? If so shall be deeply grateful.
(D) If there are any ships you can send us please say when they would be ready to sail.
(1st S.L. 2156/22 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

Australia.

ADELAIDE, WAIRUNA My 1812Z/20. ADELAIDE now escorting WAIRUNA to Lautoka and will then visit Suva. (A.C.N.B., 0456Z/22 to Admty.)

MANOORA. Arrived Thursday Island 1117Z/21 departed for Cairns 1306Z/21. (A.C.N.B. 1119Z/22.).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.

WAR DIARY. Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

EUROPA.) At Bremershaven on 21/12. (D.S. 474).
BREMEN.)

TRAPANI. Known to be at Genoa, much damaged on 19/12 (D.S. 474).

PROCIDA.) At Leghorn, may shortly proceed to sea.
LICORNO.) (D.S. 474).

NORDERNEY. Para reports German NORDERNEY left quay and anchored.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0203Z/22 to R.A.S.A.)

LA PLATA. 22/12. LA PLATA arrived here morning 22/12. (Bilbao, 1225/22 to D.N.I.)

My 0240/20. German ship LA PLATA arrived Bilbao 22/12.
(D.D.I.C. 2345/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Suspicious Vessel. Your 1115/16 and S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1649/15. After further consultation with Commodore and Staff in SUTLEJ thought tanker was not EUROFELD or German naval tanker SAMLAND. C.in C. S.A. 1133/22.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1814/22 to Adty).
Subject: Vessel may have been EUROGELD sailed September 3rd not since located.

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO. Has arrived at Genoa from Spain with cargo of fruit. (D.S. 474).

SAN GIUSTO. Addressed in an en clair passage on 20/12 from Rome as an hospital ship, and Naval Authorities at Taranto and Bari informed that ship is appointed for service at Bari. (D.S. 474).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

MANGEN. (torpedoed 21/12.) (Swedish, 1246 tons). In convoy O.G.47. Sunk 2117/21 040° 47'N., 016° 47'W. Survivors picked up by GARM now ordered to proceed to Lisbon. No contact obtained am rejoining convoy. (LEITH 0042/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Torpedoed by U/Boat probably Italian homeward bound from Bordeaux in 40° 47'N., 16° 47'W at 2117/20. (D.D.I.C. 1147/22 to TRIDENT).

SARASTONE. (British 2473 tons) Attacked by S/M in 41° 18'N., 15' 14° W. (Valentia Radio 1511/22).
S S S S 41° 18'N., 15° 14'W. attacked by S/M.
(Port Patrick Radio 1517/22).
Following received from Box 25 Burnit begins, SARASTONE 41 18'N., 15 14'W., attacked by S/M 1511 G.M.T.
(Hull Base 1731/22).

Submarine Reported.

1914/21. By D/F 034° 15'N., 016° 20'W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0357/22).

2017/21. Ref: Adty. message A.F. 40° 47'N., 16° 47'W. 2017/21 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0510/22).

0012. Bearings received. Preamble and first 2 groups of message were:- 0118/22 JBDT LKEZ U/B probable in vicinity of 09° N., 21° W. (D.D.I.C. 1000/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

1309. By D/F probably U/B in area 53° 30' to 55° N., 20° to 25° W may have reported you. (D.D.I.C. 1356/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1511. Enemy submarine in 041° 18'N., 015° 14'W. (V.A.S. 1651/22). D/F bearings indicate probable U/Boat within 30 miles of (a) 007° N., 028° W or (b) 008° N., 019° W. (C.in C. S.A. 1055/22).

1104. Indications of U/Boat in area bounded by 006° N., 009° N., 029° W., 018° W. (C.in C. S.A. 1104/22).

BEDOUIN. If not in contact and assuming that information has been received return to Scapa with your destroyer. (C.in C. H.F. 1951/22 to BEDOUIN).

1118. 52.30 - 53° N., 18° W - 20° W. indifinite position of Italian U/Boat. (D.S.475).

1758. 52.30 N., - 53.30 N., West of 22° W. indefinite position of German U/Boat. (D.S. 475).

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

Italian.

1 patrolling westward of Madeira leaving soon.
1 or 2 patrolling Azores area.
1 off Cape Juby.
1 bound for Gironde about 42 degs. N 15 degs. W.
5 between 52 degs. 30' N., and 57 degs. N. 18 degs W. and 20 degs W. one of which was about 52 degs 30' N., 19 degs W at 1118/22 probably homeward bound, others perhaps following.

German.

1 to westward of Sierra Leone possibly about 9 degs N., 21 degs W.
1 homeward bound maybe to northward of Madeira.
1 within 150 miles of Rockall to S.W. or W.
4 between 57 degs. N and 60 degs. N. 19 degs 30'W and 21 degs 30'W. One has been relieved and will return to Bergen. Two other reliefs may be coming from there.
(D.D.I.C. 1338/22 V.A.S. 1528/22).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked.

Obtained Echo position 63° 38'N., 16° 00'W. Attacked twice with no results. Lost Echo.
(NORTHERN GIFT. 1330/22).

THUNDERBOLT.
R. of P.

THUNDERBOLT reports 6 torpedoes fired at Italian U/boat at 0920/15. Enemy and escort zigzagging independently when first sighted at 0830. All column of water observed followed by an explosion 4 minutes 9 seconds after firing torpedo. Two minutes later enemy bow or stern sticking out of water. Further look revealed no trace of U/Boat and depth charging started five minutes after explosion of torpedo. During Hunt on 17/12 enemy passed over THUNDERBOLT and superficial damage was caused probably by explosive sweep. Since no further explosions were heard, although A/S sweeping continued for about 1-1/2 hours C.O. is doubtful whether enemy had firm contact at any time.
(V.A.S. 1449/22 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

The decision to route Trade Convoys further North in the N.W. Approaches has necessitated the provision of more Escort Ships; and the first five N- Class Destroyers, which it had been proposed to send to the Mediterranean, are accordingly to remain in home waters for the present, joining C. in C., W.A., when worked up.

In view of a possible attempt by the enemy to effect the passage of Raiders through the Iceland-Faroes passage, B.C.1. in HOOD with EDINBURGH and 4 Destroyers is to sail at 1600 tomorrow to patrol to the Eastward of that passage.

One of the E-Boats which attacked the Dutch STAD MAASTRICHT in Convoy F.N. 66 late tonight off Yarmouth was engaged at 2210 by VERDUN and is believed by her to have been sunk or badly damaged. WESTMINSTER reports slight superficial damage and 5 wounded, 3 seriously, in this action; and the STAD MAASTRICHT, though torpedoed, is still afloat.

British Air Activity

Shipping and Barges at Flushing, Dunkirk and Calais were attacked tonight by our Bombers; and a convoy of 5 ships 15 miles from Bremerhaven was also attacked. In our Air Patrol areas, except that of Plymouth, Hampden Patrols are now cancelled and Fighter Night Patrols substituted. On suitable nights up to 20 single-engined Fighters are kept over these Areas, while Guns are silenced and Searchlights doused.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Six long-distance Fokke Wulf Bombers are reported to have left Bordeaux at 1100 today, possibly to attack Convoy W.S. 5 A; and considerable Enemy aircraft activity continues near and over Rosslare. At 1848 today the north wall of the Torpedo Depot at Portsmouth was badly damaged by H.E. Bombs and 40 casualties were caused; but no one is reported killed and most of the casualties were slight.

Mining

At Liverpool WARWICK was damaged by a Mine about one mile 100° from the Bar Light Vessel at 2111 to-night, but by 2357 had been successfully beached in Tranmere Bay with her engine and boiler rooms flooded; and the M/V ATLANTIC COAST was slightly damaged by a near Mine this afternoon. Of the mines recently dropped off Liverpool 14 have no been accounted for; of which 3 were apparently fired by the Isle of Man Steamer VICTORIA without damage to herself, 3 were exploded by sweepers, 1 by an examination vessel, and most of the remainder self detonated. The Port, which had been re-opened at 1000 today, was closed again at 1800; and F.O.I.C. Liverpool has recommended today the extinction of certain Navigation Lights and the issue of precautionary navigational instructions.

In the Sheerness area, also, it has been ordered that, so far as is tactically possible, the positions of craft which may act as sea marks for minelaying aircraft should be constantly changed.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.12.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

There is no further news of the raider reported on 21/12. HERMES, when she has searched the area ordered by C.in C. in his 0959/21, is to operate on the western limits of the trade route S.E. of St. Helena until necessary to return to St. Helena to fuel.

N.C.S.O. Duala reports that Buenos Aires broadcast on the night of 20.21/12 that the French Foreign Legion would be leaving Duala, Cameroons, on 25/12, would pick up convoy at Freetown, and would then proceed to Port Sudan. The Free French authorities attribute the leakage to military carelessness.

Mediterranean.

C.in C. Mediterranean, has again drawn attention to inadequate shore -based air reconnaissance, owing to lack of aircraft. Important operations of passing MALAYA and 2 M.T. ships to the Western Mediterranean have been carried out without any idea of the whereabouts of main Italian units.

East Indies.

LEANDER will from Force R for Convoy B.N.12. which she will continue to escort west of 53° E., as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea.

MOST SECRET.

23.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

The ex-American destroyers SALISBURY, RICHMOND and NEWPORT left St. John's N.F. for the United Kingdom this afternoon.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western Approaches Destroyers.

VENOMOUS forthwith, WITCH and WATCHMAN on 24/12, VIMY, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, VANOC, VOLUNTEER on date to be arranged, will join my Command VANSITTART will leave my Command for Portsmouth on 26/12 and WIVERN and WILD SWAN for Portsmouth on relief by VANOC, VOLUNTEER.
(C. in C. W.A. 1504/23).

5 N-class Destroyers to join C. in C. W.A.

My 1306/19 paragraph 3. Consequent on the decision to route trade convoys further North in the North Western Approaches, it is necessary to provide more escorts.
2. The first five N Class destroyers will therefore remain in Home Waters for the present and are to join the Command of C. in C. Western Approaches when worked up.
3. The question of sending them to the Mediterranean will be reconsidered when four or five are available.
(1st S.L. 1528/23).

Iceland Prohibited Area on East Coast.

Icelandic Government have requested my assistance in regard to prohibited area on east coast. They point out that present limits preclude fishing from east coast ports. Situation would be greatly alleviated if (A) fishing were permitted within eight miles of coast and (B) if northern end of western limit were shifted as far as possible to north eastward to allow more sea room around Papey Island.
(F.O.Iceland 1724/23 to Adty)

Greenock.

Relations with Greenock Harbour Trust and Port Emergency Committee. Proposed alteration in their personnel.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1906/23 to Adty)

KENYA.

To be at 4 hours Notice for Steam
(A.C.N.S.H. 1907/23 to C. in C. W.A.).

Oban.

In view of Air Attack today, request an A/A Ship be stationed there until shore A/A defences are provided.
(C. in C. W.A. 2324/23 to Adty).

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K

DELUGE. At. 1130/23 (D.C. 1130/23 and 1623/23).

At. 2330/23 (D.C. 2356/23).

Invasion Flares. My 1903/19 Demonstration takes place today (V.A. Dover 1201/23 to G.O.C's).

Movements.

Nore Command Ships out of Action. My 0746/17. Delete HOLDERNESS ERNBUS. Amend WHITSHED completion date 25/12. INTREPID 24/12. Add GARTH at Sheerness 25/12 (C. in C. Nore 0746/23).

ROCKINGHAM Arrived Plymouth 1600/22 (C. in C. W.A. 0808/23).

VULCAN Sailed 0838/23 to join Convoy for Southend (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0846/23).

HOLDERNESS. Sailed Sheerness 0940/23 (C. in C. Nore 1050/23). Arrived 1403 (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1411/23).

MOOLTAN, MALINES. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1114/23)

DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, LETITIA, CHITRAL, CALIFORNIA. RANP 2240/20. Proceed passing Swiths 0001/24 to R/V with LETITIA, CHITRAL, CALIFORNIA in North Minches and escort to 61°N. 15° 50'W. returning Scapa when detached. (RAD 1155/23 to DOUGLAS KEPPEL) Sailed LETITIA, CHITRAL CALIFORNIA as by FOCNP 2240/20 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/23) Expect A/S Air Escort tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 1512/23 to LETITIA).

MALLOW, HARVESTER, HIGHLANDER, WITHERINGTON. Arrived 23/12 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1305/23).

KASHMIR, PUNJABI, JERSEY. Leave Plymouth 1630/23 to sweep from 49° 15'N 3°W to Ushant, returning Plymouth 1030/24. (C. in C. W.A. 1318/23 to Adty).

SANDWICH. Arrived Sheerness for London 1305 (C. in C. Nore 1440/23).

/AUSTRALIA.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

AUSTRALIA. When ready for sea should proceed to Scapa or as ordered by C. in C. H.F. (A.C.M.S. H. 1526/23).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (ACOS 1531/23).

SKEENA. Arrived 1540 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1542/23).

MONTGOMERY. Arrived (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1623/23).

WITCH. Your 1100/23. After fuelling at Lough Foyle proceed to Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 1624/23). Arrived (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2011/23).

QUORN, HOLDERNESS. Sailed 1707 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/23).

VANITY. Expect arrive 62.D. at 0630/24 (VANITY 1725/23 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

KELVIN, KENT, KIPLING. My 1500/23. (KENT not met) My position at 2000 G.M.T. 51° 15'N. 16° 11'W. as by Adty 1712/7 (KENT 1805/23 to C. in C. W.A.). Steer towards 54°N. 15°W. (C. in C.W.A. 2102/23 to KENT). Destroyers to meet KENT in 54°N. 15°W. at 0930/24. Route to arrive Rame Head 1030/27. (C. in C.W.A. 2124/23).

WESTCOTT, VANSITTART, DEPTFORD, CALDWELL, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/23

Operations.

Troop Embarkation. GLENGYLE should be ready sail for Tail of Bank 0700/24. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1207/23) Cancel my 1315/23. GLENROY should leave Tail of Bank for Dock not later than 1500/24. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1641/23 to D.C.D.).

HOOD to patrol. I consider that the enemy may try to take the opportunity of Christmas period to effect passage of outward or inward bound raiders.

Intend therefore to sail B.C.S.1 in HOOD tomorrow with one Cruiser and 4 (four) destroyers to patrol to eastward of Iceland-Faroes passage. (C. in C. H.F. 1214/23 to Adty).

/B.C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

HOOD to patrol. (contd)

B.C. One in HOOD with EDINBURGH and four destroyers is to sail from Scapa at 1600 tomorrow to patrol to the Eastward of the Iceland-Faeroes passage. In the absense of other instructions the force is to return to Scapa p.m./29.
(C. in C. H.F. 2249/23 to B.C.1).

Operation SPECIMEN.

Intend embark only 2 A/C for repetition Operation as transfer of third A/C from Hangar to Catapult is not possible (PEGASUS 1800/23 to C. in C. W.A.).

P.V.1.

Cancel my 1240 (Flare-dropping exercise) P.V.1. to be carried out instead at 2015 tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 1917/23 to Adty).

E-Boat engaged.

One E-Boar bearing 200° distance ½ mile in 52° 32'N. 2° 8'E. Consider E-Boar sunk or badly damaged. Can find no trace. (VERDUN 2210/23).
E-Boat disappeared behind smoke screen. (WESTMINSTER 2215/23) E-Boat probably damaged. Last seen steering south. (WESTMINSTER 2217/23).
My 2217. Slight superficial damage and 5 wounded, 3 seriously. Request instructions. (WESTMINSTER 2330/23 to C. in C. Nore).

STAD MAASTRICHT (Dutch, 6552 Tons).

Torpedoed in about 052° 35'N 002°03'E. Ship is afloat and appears likely to remain so. SHEARWATER has survivors and is standing by until daylight. Request tugs be sent then.
(WOLSEY 2255/23/to C. in C. Nore).

Tug KROOMAN sailed 0020/24 from Yarmouth to assist. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0030/24)
Tug NORMAN sailed 0055/24 from Yarmouth to assist. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0059/24).
Tug KENIA sailed Harwich 1205/24 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1222/24). If towing well, continue to tow towards Southend as long as visibility permits.
(C. in C. Nore 1745/24 to SHEARWATER).

Vessel sunk under tow in Gun Fleet Beacon 340° 3.6 miles. Bulkhead evidently collapsed. She sank in 30 seconds before she could be towed clear of channel. Propose to return to Harwich with tugs and survivors.
(SHEARWATER 1012/25 to C. in C. Nore).

Your 1012/25. Buoy position of wreck as accurately as possible and return to Harwich with Tugs (C. in C. Nore 1125/25 to SHEARWATER).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

H.34. — Cancel my 1134/22. H.34 now required Sheerness 6/1 (S.7. 1459/23).

MINERVE. — My 1554/22. Sailing postponed 24 hours (C. in C. W.A. 1508/23).

Greenock Area. — Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1509/23).

L.23. — Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1629/23).

Proposed S/M anti-U-Boat Patrol in N.W. Approaches.

A. Our submarines have recently had little success in the Approaches to Lorient and it is proposed that for the time being this patrol should be discontinued.

B. If 'A' is approved suggest the submarine thus released should carry out anti-U-Boat patrol in N.W. Approaches clear to the N.W. of the area in which our convoy local escorts work.

C. If 'B' is approved propose that the submarine proceed to and from patrol via Lands End. This will keep her as clear as possible of own shipping and will give her a chance to attack U-Boats on passage between Lorient Bordeaux and N.W. Approaches.

D. Propose SEVERN carries out a short patrol of this nature while on passage to Halifax.
(V.A.S. 1756/23 to Adty).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrol FAIR will take off at 0230
(C. in C. Rosyth 0156/23).
2 Blenheim Fighters leave Dyce 0845 to Flamborough and return
(C. in C. Rosyth 0740/23).
Patrols ordered today STAND and STAB
(C. in C. Rosyth 0742/23).
My 0742. Add Patrol THOST
(C. in C. Rosyth 1112/23).

/Lorient.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (continued).

Lorient / Brest. — 59 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's Docks at Lorient. 53 Sqdn. to attack tonight Power Station and Dockyard at Brest (H.Q.C.C. 1220/23 to 16 Group).

Bordeaux. — 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. (H.Q.C.C. 1222/23 to 15 Group).

Night Fighter Patrols replacing Hampden Patrols. — A.322 23/12. My 2537 / 1/12. Hampden patrols now cancelled and fighter nights substituted. On clear nights up to 20 sigle engine fighter Group arrangements while guns are silenced and searchlights doused. Patrol areas include same ports excepting Plymouth which is deleted. Request similar co-operation with local A.A.Commanders. (H.Q.F.C. 1340/23 to Adty).

Night Attacks. — Shipping and Barges were attacked at Flushing, Dunkirk, and Calais during the Night 22/23; and a Convoy of 5 Ships 15 miles from Bremerhaven was bombed by our A/C (H.Q.B.C. 2032/23 to Air Ministry.

Enemy Air Activity.

6 A/C leave Bordeaux. — Six Fokke Wulf A/C left Bordeaux at 1100 B.S.T., probably to attack W.S.5A. (D.D.I.C. 1235/23 to C.S.15. FURIOUS, ARGUS) (C. in C. W.A. 1218/23 to Ships).

A/C over Rosslare. — My 1048/20. Captain of G.W.R. Steamer reports considerable German activity over Rosslare and vicinity, aircraft coming so close that markings can be seen with naked eye. Irish papers have suppressed news of sinking of ISOLDA and are consistently taking a Pro-German attitude. (P.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1240/23 to Adty).

Portsmouth Damage in Air-Raid. — At 1848/23 H.E. bombs fell in torpedo depot and on coal heaps N.E. corner No. 3 basin. North wall of torpedo depot badly damaged. Extreme damage to roof and window glass in eastern part of the yard.

Forty casualties mostly slight. No report of any killed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2120/23 to Adty).

Oban. — Enemy A/C over Convoy Anchorage at 1800 (N.O.I.C. Oban 1815/23).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation ZME.9.	Intend leave Milford Haven 1800 tonight lay at 2200, and return on completion about 0030/24 (ADVENTURE 0932/23). Operation completed (ADVENTURE 2241/23).
Liverpool.	Re-opened. (F.O.I.C. 1000/23). Port closed (F.O.I.C. 2241/23).
Thames Estuary.	Have been trying to sink Floating Mine in 045° B.6 Red Spherical Buoy one mile. Trawler No. 16 now trying to sink mine. (SANDWICH 1030/23 to C. in C. Nore).
Operation D.Z.	Adty 1545/21. Intend sail INTREPID, ICARUS from Immingham 1030/24. (D.20. 1410/23 to C. in C. Nore). Your 1755/19. Concur. Short Title D.Z. has been allocated. (C. in C.H.F. 1529/23 to Adty). Adty. 1137/18 and 1545/21. Request you sail INTREPID, ICARUS to arrive Scapa about 1030/25. (C. in C. Nore 1720/23 to F.O.I.C. Humber).
Falmouth.	Mine exploded P.M. today about 1½ miles ESE of St Anthony. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1738/23).
Oban.	Enemy A/C over Convoy Anchorage at 1800/23. Flares dropped. Suspect Mines. Port has been closed. Request Sweepers (N.O.I.C. Oban 1815/23). Sweepers detailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1935/23 to N.O.I.C. Oban) Port now open (N.O.I.C. Oban 2250/23 to Adty).
Operation. G.O.2.	My 1348/4. To be carried out on Night 28/12 or as soon after as convenient (C. in C. W.A. 1836/23 to ADVENTURE).
Liverpool. Proposed precautions.	Experience last two nights shows that enemy aircraft minelaying approaches definitely make use of Channel lights especially between Bar and Queen's Channel. Consider essential these lights be extinguished forthwith and that consequent delays in movements must be accepted. Reported that use of Bell and Light Float is also being made and this should also be extinguished If approved request instructions be promulgated.

/ (1).....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool Proposed precautions. (contd).

(1) No vessels to approach within 20 fathom line during dark hours.
(2) Essential that vessels keep strictly to the Swept Channels.
(3) Convoys to anchor Moelfre Bay for the night when necessary.
(4) No vessels to anchor anywhere within 20 fathom line when making Liverpool unti reaching examination anchorage Crosby Channel.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1947/23 to Adty).

WARWICK.

Damaged by Mine in about 100° 1 mile from Bar Light Vessel. Engine and Boiler Rooms flooded. No casualties. Towed into river and Lope beach at Tranmere Bay tonight (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2111/23).
Now beached at Tranmere Bay (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2357/23 to Adty).

Nore Command. Precaution against Minelaying A/C.

Your 0054/21, paragraph (H).
2. As far as possible compatible with tactical requirements positions of all craft which may act as sea marks to enemy mine laying aircraft should be constantly changed.
(D. of L.D. 2113/23 to C. in C. Nore).

Liverpool. ELAX ATLANTIC COAST

My 1915/22/12 and 2111/23/12 hoped tanker ELAX will be berthed Birkenhead docks A.M./ 24. WARWICK now beached Tranmere Bay. M.V. ATLANTIC COAST slightly damaged by near mine A.M. today 14 mines now accounted for 3 apparently fired by the Isle of Man steamer VICTORIA steaming 20 knots, no damage to vessel. 3 exploded by sweepers one possibly by Examination vessel and remainder self detonated all except four in area between Bar Lt. Vessel and Queens Channel entrance.

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Stadlandet.

A/C saw one 8000-Ton M/V in 62°4'N 5°3'E. at 1135, steering 225°.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1238/23 to S.M. 0.23).

German Rescue Float.

Float No. 24 drifted inshore at Sandgate Has been salvaged and towed to Dover.
(V.A. Dover 1635/23 to Adty).

E. Boats.

There are indications of E-Boats activities tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1915/

Stavanger.

R/C on 20/12 (PIU 2352/23).

MOST SECRET.

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23. 12. 40.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BEVERLEY.
(ex U.S.A.
Destroyer.)

E.T.A. Inistrahull 1900/23. Have following urgent engine-room defects.(BEVERLEY 1100/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

IWATE.

In 52° 35' N. 12° W. Forehold full of water at 1237/23. Making for Berehaven. (Valentia Radio 1336/23.)

ALYNBANK.

(British, 5151 Tons) In collision in 57° 31' N. 1°35' W. Holed port side. Proceeding Rosyth 5 knots. Request Tug to stand by. (ALYNBANK 2245/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Making 8 knots. Negative Tugs. (ALYNBANK 2346/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Your 0020/24 to C. in C. Rosyth. Tug ST. OLAVES from Peterhead proceeding to your assistance. If in danger of sinking proceed to Aberdeen. If still proceeding to Rosyth comply with my 0026/24. (C. in C. Rosyth 0100/24 to ALYNBANK.) Making water in engine-room. Tug required to stand by.(ALYNBANK 0020/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.) E.T.A. May Island 0900 (ALYNBANK 0130/24) Water under control. No danger of sinking. (ALYNBANK 0230/24.

MOST SECRET.

23.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	Estimated position of convoys 0900/23. (D.T.D. 1207/23).
W.N.58.	1715/22. H.M.Trawler FOXTROT. 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0945/23).
F.S.67.	17 ships, 4 additional from middlesborough (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/23). All Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. 1116/23).
F.N.63.	All Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1034/23).
F.S.66.	Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1033/23)
O.B.M. 263.	Arrived (list). (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1045/23).
O.B.265.	1330/26. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1045/23)
C.E.20.	My 0954/22. Time table and route. (C.in C. Nore 1046/23).
F.S.65.	Humber and Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O./Humber 1052/23). Arrived except JERNLAW, NORWICH and TRADER, latter reported sailing in F.S.67 from Middlesborough. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1101/23).
F.N.64.	Arrived 1115/23. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1139/23). Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1614/23).
S.L.58.	My 2324. Meet. Add (3 ships) (C.in C. W.A. 1310/23 to BROKE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE)Route of S.L.58 Slow. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1547/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

(Convoys contd.)

Shipping. (Contd.)

H.X.95.

Estimated position at 0630/24. (C.in C. W.A. to ABERDEEN, 1320/23).

O.B. 262.

To steer for 51° N., 23° W., and not to disperse until this position is reached. (C.in C. W.A. 1354/23 to BROKE) My 1354. KENT to keep clear. (C.in C. W.A., to KENT, 1419/23 and 1732/23). Your 1354. Escort left at 1400. Unable to pass your message to Commodore before convoy dispersed at dock today. (BROKE, 1649/23).

O.B.M. 264.

1318/23 YORK CITY, 6. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1406/23, 1519/23).

S.C.17.

Sailing telegram Escort MALOJA (S.C.N.O., Halifax 1408/23, C.O.A.C. Halifax 1403/23).

S.L. 61.

Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1444/23).

F.S. 68.

Sailed 1500/23. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1509/23). List (1611/23).

O.B.O. 263.

0230/24. 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1530/23).

S.L.S.60.

Date and route. (D.T.D., 1606/23 to C.in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.P.)

S.L. 60.

Date and route. Escort ESPERANCE BAY. (D.T.D., 1622/23)

O.B.264.

My 1251/19. Cancel last sentence. Convoy will not disperse until 22° is reached. (D.T.D. 1653/23).

S.C.16.

Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D., 1719/23).

O.B.O. 263.

Will not sail due to suspected enemy mining. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1840/23 C.in C. W.A., 2046/23, to ROCHESTER).

O.B.M. 263.)
O.B.C. 263.)

Sailed 2133/23. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2235/23).

F.S.69.

My 1851/22. COTSWOLD will act as additonal escort to F.S.69 thence proceeding to Harwich. (C.in C. Rosyth 0917/23).

W.N. 57.

ALYNBANK left Scapa to cover convoy W.N.57. 1000/23.

H.G.48.

SCARBOROUGH rejoined H.G.48 at 0900/23. (SCARBOROUGH, 1058/23).

/ E.N. 46 ....
W.N. 59

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys (Contd.)

E.N. 46.
W.N. 59.

Sail at 1430/24 and act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N.46 sailing at 2230/24. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FLEETWOOD to join W.N.59 due Duncanby 1130/27. (C.in C. Rosyth 1215/23 to FLEETWOOD).

F.N.66. }
F.S.68 }

Cancel my 1152/22/12.
Additional escort for F.N. 66 and F.S.68 SHEARWATER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1340/23 amended 1435/23).

C.in C. Nore 1200/23. Amend convoy F.N. 66 due Sheringham light float 0050/24. F.S.68 due Flamborough Head 0330/24. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1800/23 to QUORN).

S.L.58.

KENT not met. SL. 58 met 1045. Proceeding with KIPLING along route. (KELVIN, 1500/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

F.S.67.

Intend sail ELSIE CAM and LIBYAN at 1700/23 to rendezvous with F.S. 67 T. No.5 buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1515/23).

Great Yarmouth 23/12 departure to join F.S.67 for Sheerness ELSIE CAM and LYBAN at 1710. 1725/23.

S.L.S.58.

HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, BEVERLEY to meet convoy S.L.S.58 in position 053° 30' N. 016° 30' W. 1000/26.
(C.in C. W.A. 1540/23 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

5 M.V's.

My 2139/22. Sailed 5 M/Vs.
Escort KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and PEARL.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1737/23).

F.N. 67.
F.S.69.

Take PRIMULA under your orders and sail to join F.N. 67, SHELDRAKE to return at dawn North of Sheringham. PRIMULA join F.S.69. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2246/23 to SHELDRAKE and PRIMULA).

S.L. 58.

Admty. 1659/21. Request you sail VICTRIX to arrive Milford Haven 27/12. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail VICTRIX as escort for s.s. AGATHA and s.s. ANTONIA ex S.L.58, to arrive Brixham at 0900.
(C.in C. W.A. 1556/23 to F.O.I.C.Greenock; F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Your 2012/22. Am endeavouring to join convoy p.m.23/12, but have been unable to fix my position. WATCHMAN in company.
(WORCESTER 1040/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ Not met ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

Convoys. (Contd.)

Not met 60° 33' 15° 00'.
(ABERDEEN 1131/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1107/23. Have not sighted convoy since 2130/21 nor have trawlers been seen. Convoy will be late. Further signal will be made when touch is regained. My noon position 038° 06' N. 012° 47' W.
(LEITH, 1316/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Convoy not met. Am returning to harbour expected time of arrival Greenock 1500/24 WORCESTER and WATCHMAN. Both ships have defective domes probably require docking.
(WORCESTER, 1832/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

My 0800 position 057° 34' north 016° 38' west checked by aircraft. Since daylight have searched 20 miles front to 058° 11' north 013° 46' west aircraft assisting and thence to position 057° 45' north 012° 36' west at 1645. My course and speed 124° 14 knots. Intend continuing until daylight. (OTTAWA, 1846/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

Harwich December 23rd departure M/S Trawler TRANIO at 1714 to join southbound convoy a.m. 24/12 for London.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1915/23 to Admty.)

O.S.48. Turkish ferry boats EXIBIT, GEMLIK, ERDEK and KIYLK to be sailed with O.S.48.
(D.T.D. 1914/23 to N.C.S.O. Clyde).

Escort Groups. Order of sailing of escort groups for O.B. and O.G. Convoys to 13/1. (C.in C. W.A. 1542/23).

Ocean Escorts for Gibraltar Convoys. In view of increased U-Boat activity near route of Gibraltar convoys, consider it desirable that ocean escort of these convoys should be increased to 3 sloops and essential that it should be increased to 2.
On basis of 2 sloops per convoy for the cycle given in A.M. 2017/21, 12 sloops required.
Excluding BIDEFORD 9 sloops are now allocated to this command.
Propose that three should be transfer from East Coast as soon as they can relieved by HUNT Class destroyers.
Request completion of BIDEFORD may hastened. 1656/23.

/ Independent Sa'

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Independent Sailings.

Your 1659/21/12. Cape Verde Islands are not mentioned. Request confirmation that ships bound to and from U.K. and Freetown and other South Atlantic ports should now be routed wither side of Cape Verde Islands and all regulation of N. and S. bound traffic by a dividing line as laid down in Admiralty 1758/26/11 defined in sub paras. (2) and (3) of (A) of Admty. 1812/19/11 is also cancelled. Presume ships should still pass out of sight of Cape Verde Islands. Are 13 knot ships still to be sailed independently as in Admiralty's 1157/15/11 which is now cancelled. (C.in C. S.A. 1757/23 to Admty.)

Troop Convoys.

N.3.SB.

20 liners with military personnel to be ready to sail (date). List of sailing ports and orders for destroyer escort, A/A escort (one DIDO class and one A/A cruiser), ocean escort by RAMILLIES. (D.O.D.(H) 2350/23 to C.in C's W.A., H.F., etc.)

T.C.8.

If not met, ordered to steer 075° for 290 miles from R.V. 57° N., 22° W. (C.in C. W.A. 0956/23 to OTTAWA).

EUMAEUS
ABOSSO

Cancel my 2115/22.
Now approved to embark 246 Naval personnel in EUMAEUS and 220 Naval, Military and R.A.F. personnel in ABOSSO. Ships will be ready to sail from Liverpool on 27/12, and 28/12 respectively.
Both vessels should be sailed to R.V. with SALOPIAN.
A/S escort should be provided.
SALOPIAN to escort both vessels to Western patrol whence they are to proceed on their voyages independently.
(D.O.D.(H) 2147/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CAPITAINE-SAINT-MARTIN.

French CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN expected to complete loading 23/12 expected to sail for Casabalnca night 24/12.
British Consul Las Palmas 1230/23 to Admty.

Las Palmas reports French steamship CAPITAINE-SAINT-MARTIN expected to complete loading tonight and to sail from that Port for Casablanca night of 24/25. Very desirable that this ship should be intercepted and sent to U.K. or Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1821/23).

Free French.

Your 1154/22. These Free French Men are not in Tangier but in French Zone.
I should not like them to come here as Spanish would quite possibly refuse "to play".
2. They should be got away from Protectorate and no via Tangier.
I am trying to get nominal roll for despatch to Foreign Office.
Consul General, Tangier, 1930/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

New Caledonia.

Sautot, Governor New Caledonia, states intercepted letter from Saigon written by Colonel Denis former Commandant Superieur, Noumea, and later Governor of New Caledonia elected by Vichy contains boast that he will return to New Caledonia about January with French Naval Force to re-establish Vichy regime in New Caledonia.
(D.N.I. Melbourne, 07032/23, to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

Brazzaville, Liaison.

British Liaison now organised as follows:-
Spears Mission, Brazzaville, is link between H.Q., Free French Forces and London and also between H.Q. Free French Forces and Milwestaf and C.in C. South Atlantic. (details).

This organisation must be considered as temporary and depending on ultimate decision regarding Spears Mission, Brazzaville.
(20 M.M., 1640/23, to W.O.)

Dakar Intelligence, RHONE and S/M SFAX reported torpedoed.

Following from Navy Department. From Dakar. Following French ships movements occurred 21/12: Arrival FELIX HENRI GROIX CAPLUIGI and AISNE from north, latter two 4000 and 6000 tons coal respectively for Merchant Marine.
EDEA from South, SAN PEDRO and GRANDIDIER sailed for French Guiana and Casablanca respectively.

From .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.12.1940. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

Dakar Intelligence, RHONE and S/M SFAX reported torpedoed

From (corrupt Group): French tanker RHONE and French submarine SFAX are reported as torpedoed on Atlantic side of Straits during 20/12 with loss 150 officers and men. Admiral D'Harcourt commanding at Casablanca believed attacking submarine was either British or Italian though he did not know for certain nationality.
(N.A. Washington, 1736/23, to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

7th A/S trawlers. In view of recent augmentations of 7th anti-submarine group propose trawlers be sent to U.K. in turn for docking unloading and leave as is being done with 13th Destroyer Flotilla. As majority of trawlers ships' companies live in Scotland or North of England request ships should refit at Northern port and that name of port be communicated before sailing. Request early decision as it is desired to sail KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE to U.K. in H.G. 49 about 29th December.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1052/23 to Admty.)

M.T. Convoy. Admty. 1241/20 and S.O. Force H's 2358/19. To enable rendezvous and escort to be arranged request early decision.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1100/23 to C.in C. Med.).

Azores Patrol. Situation Report 1200/23. Convoys, Force K, etc. (D.O.D. (F) 1817/23 to TRIDENT, CACHALOT).

USK, UPHOLDER, UNIQUE, HAARLEM. Gibraltar arrival 23/12 1515 USK, UPHOLDER, UNIQUE escorted by HAARLEM. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1600/23).

Daily summary operations. 2 routine A.S. Patrols.
(200 Group, 1710/23 to Air Min.).

CILURNUN. My 1912/20. CILURNUN was released by Contaband Control Service Officer for reasons stated in his message 1741 T.O.O. 1800/13 reply Adty. 1319/20.
Master was warned that if he sailed in future without ship's Navicert or ballast clearance when in ballast he would be sent in. Ships sent in by Western Patrol Trawler invariably require extra bunkers and provisions to get them to their destination in addition to which trawler can only supply an armed guard for 1 (one) vessel which she does not recover until her return.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1759/23 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN. Capetown departure 1515/22. Netherlands M/L WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN for Durban. Speed of advance 12 knots. E.T.A. P.M./26. (N.O.I.C. Simongstown).

DELHI. Lagos arrival 22/12. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1039M/23.).

ASPHODEL. CALENDULA. Arrival 1015/23/12 ASPHODEL and CALENDULA. 1055M/23.

Leakage. Have just been advised by French Authorities that Buenos Aires broadcast on the evening of Friday/Saturday last that the French Foreign Legion would be leaving Duala Cameroons on the 25/12, would pick up convoy at Freetown and would then proceed to Port Sudan.
Free French Authorities consider leakage has occurred through military carelessness and consequently over frontier into Spanish Guinea. Need for greatest secrecy had been impressed on Governor and 2 officers concerned.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1105/23 to C.in C. S.A.)

BALTAVIA Departure 23/12 on patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 1650/23).

Whale Catchers. Whale Catchers left Ardrossan routed through 056° 00' N. 010° 00' W. 056° 00' N. 017° 00' W. 052° 00' N. 022° 00' W. thence to Ponta Delgada, Las Palmas and Freetown.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1710/23).

Enemy Raider. When you have searched area in my 0959/21/12 proceed to operate on Western limits of Trade Route South East of St. Helena until necessary to return to St. Helena to fuel. (C.in C. S.A. 1857/23 to HERMES).

BRIDGEWATER. My 1107/15/12. BRIDGEWATER reported submarine resembled Redoubtable class French Submarine. Considered very probable, four of this class having seen reported recently at Dakar vide my 1617/ 3/12.
(C.in C. S.A. 1949/23 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

HYPERION
(mined 22/12)

My 0853/22. Preliminary report.
HYPERION obtained a firm contact in position (?218) MALAYA and fired one pattern, contact was regained astern and approximately 20 minutes later a second pattern was dropped. Speed was then reduced to 15 knots and then 12 knots and contact (?regained) firmly on port quarter. While altering to port and having turned 90 degrees explosion occurred approximately in tiller flat. Ship was flooded aft up to officers cabin flat. Both screws out of action, ships structure badly buckled. Ship sunk by torpedo from JANUS on my orders that ship was to be sunk if (corrupt group) not steam. Casualties two ratings missing, blast killed one officer, and eight ratings cot cases and four ratings non-cot cases. From available evidence it is considered that HYPERION hit a mine.
(C.in C. Med., 1035/23, to Admty.)

Convoy
M.E.5A.

Arrived a.m./23. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1153/23 to Admty.)

Operations,
20/12 - 22/12.

My 1221/19. Fast and slow convoys arrived without incident at Malta and M.E.5 sailed for Alexandria at 1500/20. MALAYA proceeded through Narrows on night 21/22, during passage HYPERION was mined or torpedoed and sunk as reported in my 0853/22.
On night 20/21 ten Swordfish of 830 Squadron attacked Tripoli (Africa), four Cucumbers laid south of main channel and two in channel. Remaining aircraft scored hits with 250 pound bombs on seaplane station, slipway and buildings on north mole (?dockyard) several fires started. All aircraft returned.
On night of 21/22 fifteen of ILLUSTRIOUS aircraft attacked Tripoli. Ten of the aircraft dropped bombs on Spanish Quay one Warehouse blew up and other set well alight. Army store depot also attacked and set on fire. Army H.Q. and anti-aircraft batteries hit latte silenced. 250 pound bombs and incendiaries used. Considerable l/ and close range anti-aircraft fire all aircraft returned safely.
During 21/12 a reconnaissance fro ILLUSTRIOUS sighted at 1300 a cor of three merchant ships escorted destroyer about 20 miles East o/ Kerkennah Island.
Nine Swordfish with torpedoes pistols brought off attack at One 3000 ton merchant vessel blow up and disappear one of

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operations. 20/12 - 22/12. (Contd.)

also sunk. Destroyer and remaining merchant ship were very small and were not attacked. One aircraft failed to return from reconnaissance.
Destroyer returning from sweep in Adriatic observed fires burning at Valona from which it appears bombardment was successful. (C.in C. Med., 1223/23).

Your 2124/23. Request -
(a) details of personnel for Malta embarked in ships other than "ESSEX".
(b) Confirmation that "ESSEX" has no personnel or cargo for Greece or Middle East.
(c) Confirmation that there is no cargo for Malta in ships other than "ESSEX".
(d) Confirmation that all four ships referred to in (c) have cargoes for both Greece and Middle East.
(e) Confirmation that cargo for Greece can be off loaded before cargo for Middle East. (C.in C. Med. 1343/23 to Admty.)

Shore-Based Air Recon.

Following received from C.in C. Med. (Quotes his 1941/21/12).
Request information as to present state and probable date of reinforcements. (D.N.A.D., 1324/23 to Air Ministry).

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 196 up to 1200 hours 23/12.
Para. 1 Egypt. (Details of aircraft casualties from commencement of military operations in Western Desert on 9/12 to date). Totals 63 confirmed 38 unconfirmed. Aircraft operating from Malta destroyed 19 additional unidentified aircraft on ground confirmed. R.A.F. including those destroyed in operational area not necessarily through enemy action one Wellington 4 Blenheims 3 Hurricanes 3 Gladiators one Lysander destroyed.
Total 14. 21-22/12 3 Wellingtons bombed Tobruk wharves, jetties and buildings, all bombs except 4 falling target area. 5 Wellingtons bombed Berka and Benina aerodromes, starting explosions and fierce fires among the hangars at Berka.
22/12. No bombing operations.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1228/23).

Tobruk bombed.

/Malta Air Report. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours. 23/12. All times G.M.T. 1150 hours off Cape Spartivento 6 MVS 3,000 tons heading 270 degrees towards Messina Straits. 0811 to 1403 Glenn Martin 431 Flt. - photographic recco. Brindisi and Taranto. Brindisi - 3 cruisers in outer anchorage east of seaplane station. In harbour 5 destroyers alongside quay and 5 MVS of 1,000 moored at right angles to Mole. Taranto convoy of 8 MVS - 8,000 to 10,000 tons escorted by 2 battleships of which 1 Littorio and 1 Cavour and 5 destroyers bearing 220 degrees 3 miles from entrance to harbour course 040 degrees. In outer harbour quarter mile from main entrance. One battleship supported by barges making slowly for inner harbour. Evidently the damaged CAVOUR 8 MVS 6 to 8 thousand tons anchored off north west of entrance. Inner harbour twelve destroyers and five cruisers along destroyer pens from west to East. A.A. intense at 6000 feet but inaccurate. No enemy activity over Malta. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/23).

Air Operations, Tripoli, Convoy attacked.

Intend issuing following press Communique. Naval Aircraft attacked harbour of Tripoli (Libya) in North Africa on the night of 20th and 21/12. The attacks were extremely successful the quay being repeatedly hit. Warehouses were set on fire and one was seen to explode. The seaplane station was also heavily hit.
On the afternoon 21/12 our Naval Aircraft attacked with torpedoes a convoy of 3 merchant ships escorted by a destroyer. One 3000 ton ship was seen blown up, another 6000 ton ship was also sunk. One aircraft failed to return from these operations. (C.in C. Med., 1209/23).

East Indies.

HINDUSTAN

Departure 0500Z/23 for Perim patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0515Z/23).

PRABHAVATI, SOPHIE MARIE

Bombay arrivals 0230 Z/23 PRABHAVATI 0345 SOPHIE MARIE.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0645/23).

LEANDER, B.N. 12.

LEANDER will form Force R for B.N.12, and will continue to escort convoy west of 063° E. as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. (C.in C. E.I. 0738Z/23).

RANCHI

Mombasa arrived 0825/23 G.M.T. RANCHI. 0832Z/23.

Kismayu.

Air photographs of Kismayu 21/12 reveal 14 large ships and 2 small ships. Total therefore ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Kishimayu (contd.) therefore unchanged since 6/12. My 1054/7 refers. (C.in C. E.I.)

WESTRALIA. Colombo departure 1047Z/23. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 1100/23.)

W.S.4A. Convoy W.S.4A arrived Suez 0750Z/23. (S.E.N.O. Suez Canal, 1014/23).

SAVORONAN DE BRAZZA Free French sloop arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1128Z/23).

CRICKET
PROTECTOR My 1148/16 and 0504/17 CRICKET with tug PROTECTOR in company will sail from Colombo at 1130 Z/24 for Cochin where CRICKET will refuel from Commercial Stocks. CRICKET to signal and fuel requirements before departure Colombo. After refuelling ships will proceed in company to Bombay. PROTECTOR is to proceed independently from Bombay to Aden without undue delay. Arrangements for onward passage of CRICKET to Aden will be signalled later. (C.in C. E.I., 1234Z/23 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

PARRAMATTA Bombay departure 1230Z/23 for Aden. (S.O.(I) Bombay 1235/23).

SHILLONG My 1856/16. Re distress signal from SHILLONG. No confirmation SHILLONG's report yet been received. Request Masters who were near may be questioned. (C.in C. E.I. 1416Z/23 to A.C.N.B.)

RANCHI
NIEVW HOLLAND
WESTERNLAND Mombasa left 1455/23 G.M.T. RANCHI NIEVW HOLLAND, WESTERNLAND. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 1530Z/23).

TAIREA Arrival and departure 22/12 Hospital ship. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1654Z/22).

China.

Aerodromes, Malaya. Admty. 1854Z/29, (re provision of 1942 F.A.A. war requirements in Singapore area). Suggestions re additional aerodromes (C.in C. China 0931Z/23 - see Operations Vol.)

TIRRANA
TALLEYRAND Your 1218/20 not to R.O. Kobe. Norwegian Consul Kobe states in letter to Dodwells, Shanghai, that Norwegian TIRRANNA was shelled and captured June 9th, prize crew and ship despatched home. Information presumably obtained from OLE JACOB or Norwegian TEDDY survivors. (S.O.I. Shanghai, 0737Z/23, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.12.1940. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MONTCLARE. ELK. HUSKY. BISON.	Arrival MONTCLARE escorting ELK, HUSKY, BISON. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1153/23).
MALOJA.	MALOJA sailed from Halifax 23/12 Ocean escort S.O. 17 1505/23.
SALISBURY. RICHMOND. NEWPORT.	SALISBURY, RICHMOND, and NEWPORT sailed for U.K. 1405/23 G.M.T. 1512/23.
HILDA KNUDSEN. PACIFIC PRESIDENT.	Following ships have now arrived. Your 1900/29/11 HILDA KNUDSEN Your 1230/2 PACIFIC PRESIDENT. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1534/23 to M. of Shipping)

Australia.

ACHILLES. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. DOMINION MONARCH.	ACHILLES escorting EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DOMINION MONARCH arrived Sydney 2037Z/22. 0719Z/23.

New Zealand.

AWATEA.	S.O.I. Wellington 2040/19 presume AWATEA was also included in convoy. (D. of S.T. 2103/23 to N.Z. Naval Board).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HEINRICH ARP

German ship HEINRICH ARP arrived from Vigo 2300/22.
(Consul Bilbao 1705/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ARACATACA.
(torpedoed 29/11).

British POTARO arrived Buenos Aires today with 17 crew and one passenger survivor ARACATACA. All well, names in my immediately following telegram to Admiralty only.
(N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires. 2140/23 to Adty)

Submarines Reported.

0600. 006°N, 015°W (C. in C. S.A. 1508/23).

0633. Bearings obtained. Consider U-boat near 6°N, 15°W. (D.D.I.C. 1500/23 to C. in C. S.A.).

1208. By D/F, probably U boat 55°N, 17°- 19°W. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1248/23).

1530. 058° 03'N, 007° 12'W. (Graded C.3) (A.C.O.S. 1757/23)

2015. By D/F Italian U-boat between 39° - 42°N 9°30' - 11°W. (D.D.I.C. 2206/23). (F.O.C.N.A. 2323/23).

2318. By D/F Italian U-boat near Cape Finisterr probably homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 0013/24) (V.A.S. 0003/24).

Near Aruba. Your 1000/16. N.C.S.O. New York has interviewed Chief Officer. States clearly saw submarine with whole upper deck awash. No guns and no marks; about 250 feet in length painted dull greenish brown and much weather worn. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian

1 may be leaving Madeira area.
1 or 2 patrolling Azores area.
1 in area Canaries-Cape Juby.
1 bound for Gironde about 43 degrees 30'N. 12 degrees 30'W.
1 bound for Gironde about 50 degrees N.17 degrees W.
4 between 53 degrees N. and 57 degrees N 18 degrees W. and 20 degrees W. probably tending to move southwards.

/German.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated U/B dispositions. (contd).

German.

1 to westwar of Sierre Leone.
1 may be northbound somewhere about 36 degrees N. or 37 degrees N. 15 degrees W.
1 between 55 degrees N. and 55 dgrees 30'N. 17 degrees W & 19 degrees W.
1 may be West of 20 degrees W. north of 52 degrees N.

3 between 57 degrees N. and 60 degrees N. near or to West of 20 degrees W.
1 eastbound probably for Bergen may be between Shetlands and Faroes.
(D.D.I.C. 1249/23).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

As proposed yesterday by C. in C., H.F., B.C. 1. in HOOD with EDINBURGH and 4 Destroyers left Scapa at 1740 today to patrol to the Eastward of the Iceland-Faroes passage in order to intercept any Raider which may seek to use it. This patrol is at present intended to return to Scapa during the afternoon of the 29th.

During the operations of one or more E-Boats last last night off the coast between Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was reported this morning that the M/S Trawler PELTON was sunk while night-sweeping alongside No 5 Buoy, only one survivor being rescued; and the torpedoed Dutch STAD MAASTRICHT in tow of 2 tugs, with SHEARWATER standing by, was ordered at 1745 tonight to continue to tow towards Southend.

One aircraft carrying Flares was carrying out the anti-E-Boat operation P.V.1. to the Eastward of Q.Z.S. 30 from 2200 tonight for 4 hours; and M.L's acted in the same area as an anti-E-Boat Striking Force from 1900 tonight until daylight, keeping to the South of 52° 30' N.

3 M.T.B's left Harwich also at 2105 to operate between Ostend and the Hook of Holland, with orders to visit Flushing Roads if possible and to attack without challenge any vessel met to the Eastward of 2° 15' E.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

It is reported today that during the Air Raid upon the Convoy Anchorage at Oban yesterday 8 Bombs were dropped and 4 M/V's were damaged, of which one Dutch subsequently sank and one was beached. The attack was made by 2 or probably 3 Bombers approaching the Anchorage from the S.W.; and N.O.I.C. Oban considers it essential that the Port and Anchorage should be declared a Prohibited Area to all aircraft except those engaged in operational training. The whole question of the A/A defences of Oban is now to be reviewed.

Mining

A Mine detonated at 1107 today 2 miles 160° from Rame Head some two minutes after an A/S Trawler had passed slowly over that position; and the Port of Liverpool was re-opened at 1056.

North Atlantic

"Ration" — Operation "Ration" is to be carried out as opportunity offers and forces allow on 26/12, 27/12 and 28/12.

South Atlantic

Enemy Units — C. in C., reported that D.F. bearings indicated and enemy surface unit in neighbourhood 26° S., 07° W., at 2300N/23 Bearings available at the Admiralty however, give positions near Ascension. A later bearing at 0706/24 G.M.T. gave a position near 5° S., 15° W., which C. in C., considers to be a different unit to that on the 23rd.

/Sabotage.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic-Contd.

Sabotage

Capetown reports that a fire in SS SHAHRISTAN, with Government stores from Swansea to Suez, on 15/12, appears to have been started by Sabotage. Further search is to be made at Suez.

Cables

It is under consideration to cut the Brest-Dakar and Casablanca-Dakar cables.

Mediterranean

Castel Benito aerodrome and Tripoli Harbour and town were attacked last night by Wellingtons of the R.A.F. Only 1 aircraft was able to locate the former, but 9 attacked Tripoli with good results.

One aircraft raided Alexandria at 0345 and dropped 4 bombs into the sea.

East Indies

C. in C., East Indies draws attention to the urgent need of a satisfactory system of recognition between H.M. ships and merchant ships by day and night.

America & West Indies

R.C.N. Destroyers

In response to a request for assistance with escorts, Canada is to send ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE, ST FRANCIS and COLUMBIA to the Western Approaches. Halifax destroyer escort force will then be reduced to only one seaworthy "Town" class.

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Oban Proposed Prohibited Area for A/C.

Consider essential that Oban and Convoy Anchorage should be prohibited area to all air craft except operational training. Craft flying low at present moment are likely to be fired upon particularly by merchant ships.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1033/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

A.M.C.'s on Western Patrol.

Your 1751/21. There are at present 9 A.M.C.'s available for Northern and Western Patrols and allowing for refits boiler cleaning etc. there are never more than 8 serviceable at one time.
2. If 4 A.M.C.'s are detached and based on Halifax as proposed, 5 remain with which to keep a second ship in Denmark Strait vide C. in C. Home Fleet's 1579/HF 1232 of 27th September and 1754/19/11 and to provide A.M.C's for Western Patrol, which will reduce the number on Western Patrol at any given time to one. From now until the Spring the desirability of a third ship in Denmark Strait is to be considered.
3. I consider that if the proposals in your 1751/21 are adopted they should be carried further and that the four A.M.C.'s together with the A.M.C's of the present. Halifax Escort Force should be worked in rotation to keep two or possibly three ships when required in Denmark Strait leaving the remaining five for Western Patrol.
4. In addition to increased fuelling facilities in Iceland fresh water supply is necessary.
5. The reduction of the existing regular communication facilities with Iceland may cause inconvenience.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1502/24 to Adty).

HECLA.

Cancel my 1613/21. HECLA proceed to Greenock as in my 2208/8. Other arrangements are being made for Iceland. (V.C.N.S. 1848/24).

MOST SECRET.

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/24. (D.C. 1147/24.).
At 2330/24. (D.C. 2330/24.).

Oban. Request R/C to assess practicability and scale of proposed A/A Defences.
(D. of L.D. 1911/24 to Air Ministry.)

Dungeness
M.N.B.D.O.
Battery. My 1212/11 and Hofors R.A.3091/17. Battery will not be removed before 1/4/41.M.N.B.D.O. South Shields Battery will accompany R.M. Group to Middle East.(V.C.N.S.1538/24.

Movements.

DOUGLAS,
KEPPEL. Sailed Scapa 0001/24. (A.C.O.S. 0031/24.)

PHOEBE,
AURORA. My 2239/23 and C. in C. H.F. 0022/24. Ships are required to provide A/A protection for Trade at Oban.(A.C.N.S.H.0749/24 to C. in C. H.F.) Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1610/24.)

BEDOUIN,
MASHONA,
MATABELE,
ESKIMO. Arrived Scapa 0420. (A.C.O.S. 0805/24.)

QUORN,
HOLDERNESS. Arrived 0901(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0906/24.)
Sailed 1705 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1714/24.)

BRIGHTON. My 1057/22. Regret again delayed. Hope sail AM/25. (C. in C. W.A. 1121/24.)

Intend to sail Group of 5 MV's and tug towing B.P. target escorted by KINGSTON, ANDALUSITE and PEARL from Needles 1715 today. E.T.A. Dartmouth 0815/25.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1237/24 to Adty.).

VIMY. Sailed 1255 (A.C.O.S. 1320/24.)

SANDWICH. Arrived Tilbury 1445.(F.O.I.C. London 1530/24.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines today. 4 Trawlers.(A.C.O. 1539/24.)

HOOD,
EDINBURGH,
COSSACK,
ECHO,
ESCAPADE,
ELECTRA. Sailed Scapa 1740.(A.C.O.S. 1747/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VANSITTART,
HONEYSUCKLE
BLUEBELL,
CALDWELL,
VISCOUNT. } Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1934/24.)

MONTGOMERY. Arrived Scapa. (A.C.C.S. 2230/24.)

WORCESTER,
WATCHMAN,
LE TRIOMPHANT,
PIORUN,
CAPETOWN CASTLE. } Arrived Clyde (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1851/24.

Operations.

At 2210/23 VERDUN Escorting F.N.66, reported engaging an E Boat which was either sunk or badly damaged in 52° 32'N. 2° 8'E. At 2215 WESTMINSTER with F.N.67 reported that an E Boat sighted at 2205 in 52°39'N.2° 10' E. had disappeared steering south behind a smoke screen probably damaged. WESTMINSTER also reports slight superficial damage and 5 wounded on board as a result of this encounter. At 2255 Dutch s.s.STAD MAASTRICH (6500 tons.) in F N 66 reported torpedoed in 52° 35' N. 02° 03'E. Entire crew uninjured on board SHEARWATER who is standing by and reports damage unknown Ship listing apparently settling. Rescue tugs KROOMAN and NORMAN proceeding from Yarmouth. Feared H.M. trawler PELTON also sunk.(C. in C. Nore. 0144/24 to Adty

PELTON. (M/S.Trawler.)Sunk by E.Boat while night sweeping alongside No. 5 Buoy. One survivor (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0150/24 and 1715/24.).

P.V.L. P.V.L. will be carried out tonight by one A/C carrying Flares only.

P.Y.A. P.Y.A. will also be carried out and M/L's will act as Striking Force.(C.in C. Nore 1043/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

P.V.1.
P.Y.1.

My 1043. P Y A and P V 1 will operate Eastward of Q.Z.8. 30 keeping South of 52° 30' N, commencing P.Y.A. at 1900 till daylight/25th.P.V.1 at 2200 to 0200/25. M.L's will show minor War vessels recognition signals when in touch with enemy in vicinity of friendly warships or convoy. O patrol will keep to the Northward of No. 5 buoy (latitude 52° 30' N, arriving there at about 2100.(C. in C. Nore 1454/24.)

M.T.B.'s between Ostend and Hook.

44. Weather permitting M.T.B's are to operate tonight between Ostend and Hook of Holland. If conditions suitable Flushing Road should be visited. Any vessel met east of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1128/24.)

M.T.B's 22,31, and 32 sailed 2105 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2107/24.)

Patrol in Faroes-Iceland Passage.

Intend to leave Scapa in HOOD with EDINBURGH and four destroyers about 1730/24 and proceed along meridian 4° west speed of advance 17 knots to operate near line joining 63° N. 4° W, and 66° N. 007°W. Request I may be informed of any intended air co-operation. (B.C.1. 1415/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

Two M.L's operating 5 miles to Eastward of Channel between number five and Aldeburgh. Three M.T.B's leave Harwich 2100 returning daylight 25th Dec. proceeding by South Shipwash Buoy and Galloper. One aircraft may drop flares between 2200/24 and 0200/25. vicinity of M.L's.(C.in C. Nore 1550/24. to EGRET.)

[redacted].

Submarines.

[redacted]

Cancel my 1554/22. (C. in C. W.A.1132/24.)

Patrol off Lorient to remain.

Your 1756/23. It is considered of great importance that the reconnaissance of the area referred to in paragraph A should not be withdrawn at the present time. A submarine should therefore remain in this area. 2. The proposal, however, for SEVERN to carry out a short patrol of the nature referred to is approved.(V.C.N.S.1258/24 to V.A.S.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1320/24 and 1810/24.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/25. (V.A.B. 1547/24.)

G. 13. }
G. 15. }

Sailed. E.T.A. Bangor Bay 0200/25. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1920/24.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

FAIR will not be flown tonight. (C. in C. Rosyth 0030/24.) Following being flown today: S.9., HORNLI, TROSK Southern half only, S.A. 1A., S.A.2., and S.A.3.,(C. in C. Rosyth 0746/24.) 2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0845 for Flamborough and return (C. in C. Rosyth 0748/24.) Patrol VIKING not being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1100/24.) My 1214/23 and 2249/23. Request Patrol similar to MUGGY during period of B.C.1's Patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 1422/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Your 1422/24. MUGGY will be flown daily between 25/12 and 28/12 inclusive by one Sunderland. (C. in C. Rosyth 1744/24 to C. in C. H.F.) FAIR will not be flown tonight. (C. in C. Rosyth 2300/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

PETERTON.

(British, 5221 Tons.) Attacked by A/C. in 54° 51' N. 13° 13' W.(Plymouth W/T 0910/24.) Bombed and gunned. (Portishead Radio 0912/24.) Sailed Tug RESTIVE from Campbeltown at 1122 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1215/24 to C. in C. W.A.) A/C. attacking in 081° Tory Island 146 miles (Valentia Radio 1422/24.) Detach one Corvette to stand by. Latest position given is 54° 54' N. 12° 29' W. at 1422. (C. in C. W.A. 1700/24 to BROKE.) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2120/24 to SOUTHERN PRIDE.)

Portsmouth.

My 2120/23. Apparently no H.E. fell in Dockyard. Damage due to large explosion outside. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1440/24. to Adty.) Following damage caused by Air-Raid at 1848/23. (Supt.C.E. Portsmouth 1515/24.) Damage to R.N. Barracks. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Liverpool. Following damage to Adty Establishments in Air-Raids of Nights 20/21 and 21/22/12. (S.C.E. Liverpool 1742/24 to C.E. in C.)

Oban. My 1815/23. Further details as follows:-

BREDA. (Dutch, 6941 tons. Damaged near miss. Endeavoured beach but sunk in 13 fathoms Lochnell Bay.

TUVA. (Dutch, 4652 tons. Direct hit heavy calibre bomb in No. 4 hold. Seven killed including three engineers. Vessel got under way with assistance and beached about 2350/23 on Boghn Na Garbhard, on rock. Salvage prospects good. Captain reports he opened fire. Several hits probable.

DAN-Y-BRYN. (British 5117 tons) Damaged above water-line. Bomb entered forecastle, emerged through shell plating and failed to explode Requires repairs.

KLYNDERBORG. (British, 2022 tons) Hit by two bombs. One unexploded (500 kilos) rendered safe by B.S.O. damage slight. Second wireless operator seriously injured. Ship machine gunned. Two bombers, probably three, made the attack on convoy anchorage. Eight bombs reported dropped after red flares. Approach made from seaward on northeasterly course. Detailed written report follows.(F.O.I.C. Oban 1935/24 to Adty.)

Harwich. Shingle Street reports heavy Explosion seen and heard 152° 5 miles from look-out. Several vessels near.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0900/24 to C. in C. Nore.)

Liverpool. Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1056/24.)

INTREPID. Sailed 1155. E.T.A. Scapa 1030/25.
ICARUS. (F.O. Humber 1202/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

War Channel Search.

Intend sailing 12th M/S group search war channel from 090° Cruden Bay 6 miles to Kinnaird Head 000° 6 miles, R/V at 2230/24/12, thence returning searching war channel ahead of convoy W N 58 to Girdleness 090° 7 miles due 0700/25/12.(H.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1441/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 1208/15.
1. Programme is concurred in generally but it is desired to lay S.N.71 before S.N.7.

2. The proposals contained in your 1650/19 are concurred in but it is essential that the minimum amount of ground be taken up to the southward of S.N.11 and that the mines should extend as far as possible towards the ice. (V.C.N.S. 1802/24 to R.A.M.L.)

Plymouth.

Since my 1815/17 one mine detonated at 1107 in approximate position 160 degrees Rame Head 2 miles. A/S Trawler JASPER passed over position at slow speed 2 minutes previously.(C. in C. W.A. 1951/24.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Harwich Area.

127th Infantry Brigade report that at 2120/23 their platoon post in position 815600 heard motor boat about 600 yards off shore proceeding in N. Easterly direction. Engines of boat described as sounding like aero engines. Report originates from one sentry said to be unreliable source and is not confirmed by any other.(F.O.I.C.Harwich 0030/24 to C. in C. Nore.)

Norwegian Coastal Traffic.

Aircraft reconnaissance today observes eight merchant ships of 2,000 to 5,000 tons used inner canals between Stadtlandet and Kristensund.
(V.A.S. 1919/24. to SEATON.)

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

WAR WITO. (M/S Trawler) Ashore on Cork Sands. Sailed Tug KENIA 0300 to assist. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0308/24.)

LORD HOWARD. (H.M. Drifter) Sank in S/M Basin at 0300 today after collision with H.M.Yacht RADIANT. No casualties. (V.A. Dover 0951/24).

DAGFRED. (Norregian 4434 Tons) In collision with a Trawler at 0258. Z/25/11 in 12 miles South of Mull of Kintyre. Slight damage to both. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1225 Z./24.)

Y.C. 23. Foundered in deep water after being salved. Pump suctions choked. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1820/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
O.B. 265.

Cancel my 1840/23. Sailing 0230/24 (N.C.S.O. Oban 0130/24).

F.N. 66.

Engagement of VERDUN (escort) with E-boat (C. in C. Nore 0144/24) See E-boats.

C.B.O. 263.

Cancel my 2046/23. Oban portion has now sailed (C. in C. W.A. 0238/24). List (N.C.S.O. Oban 1353/24 1715/24).

H.X. 95.

Estimated position at 0630/24 (C. in C. W.A. 0320/24 to ABERDEEN).

W.N. 60.

Code "Chitty" 0930/26. Escorts BLACKFLY, BERKSHIRE 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0948/24).

W.N. 59. (O).

0700/24. No escort available Oban . 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1103/24).

O.B. 265.

Amend my 1045/23 (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1153/24).

H.X. 100.

Date and route (D.T.D. 1256/24).

H.X. 93.

8 hours late at R.V. Heavy gale 14/12. All ships now reported except ANTHEA sunk in collision (D.T.D. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1342/24).

H.X. 92.

Heavy W. gales. R.V. position and date changed. Convoy 14 hours early. 11 ships then in company. ROTORUA, TOWA and MACEDONIER torpedoed and sunk while unescorted. STUREHOLM not reported. (D.T.D. 1356/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

F.N. 67.

0920/24. 72 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1407/24.) Harwich to Hull ships sailed 1500/24 (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1556/24).

W.N. 58.

Duncansby Head 1430. E.T.A. 57° 50'N, 2100 (CAPE ARGONA, 1430/24).

O.B.O.

O.B.O. sailed 0330/24 (N.C.S.O. Oban 1455/24).

E.N. 43.

Arrived (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1502/24).

F.S. 69.

Sailed 1400/24. 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1515/24).

F.N. 65.

All Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1524/24) Humber ships arrived (F.O. Humber 1642/24). Tyne section (less HEAVELEY) arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1650/24).

/O.B. 266.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

O.B. 266.	1330/28. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1546/24).
O.B.O. 264.	0600/25. Escort LADY MADELINE.
S.L.S. 61.	Route (D.T.D. 1659/24 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).
E.N. 45.	To proceed outside Hebrides. (A.C.O.S. 1752/24) Your 1752. Proceeding outside Minches. (SPURS 2220/24).
S.L. 58.	My 1859/19. Destination changed. (D.T.D. 1857/24). A/C report of position at 1245. (C. in C. W.A. 1922/24 to BROKE).
W.N. 59.	Sailing 1903/24. H.M.T.'s CAPE MARIATO and INDIAN STAR. 15 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1945/24).
S.L.S. 58.	24 hours late. Estimated position at 0800/25. (C. in C. W.A. 2326/24 to WELLINGTON).
E.N. 46.	2230/24. H.M.T's GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE. Additional escort FLEETWOOD. 24 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2353/24 2354/24).
E.N. 45.	000° Duncansby at 840/24 (A.C.O.S. 0845/24). C. in C. Rosyth 1450. Convoy to proceed outside Hebrides (A.C.O.S. 1752/24). -y 1536/24. E.N. 45 proceeding outside Hebrides (A.C.O.S. 1944/24).
F.S. 69.	My 1939/23 (movement of COTSWOLD and F.S. 69) Cancel concluding entry under departure (C. in C. Rosyth 0927/24).
F.S. 68.	Proceed to form additional escort to F.S. 68 in place of SHEARWATER (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0940/24 to GUILLEMOT).

/H.X. 95.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 95.) O.B. 263.)	To keep clear of H.X. 95, amended route for O.B. 263 (details) then by route previously ordered. (C. in C. W.A. 1108/24 to ROCHESTER).
O.B. 263.	Sailed ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, PERIWINKLE, FLEUR DE LYS and GARDENIA all to escort O.B.263. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/24). Sailed WILD SWAN to overtake convoy (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2145/24).
S.L.S. 58.	Meet S.L.S. 58 9 ships unescorted 1000/26 (position and route) thence to anchorage in Lynn of Lorn North of Black Is. MARSDALE for Clyde joins 1000/26. (C. in C. W.A. 1152/24 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER). My 1152/24. Amend time of R/V para (a) to read 1000/27. Convoy is 24 hours late. (C. in C. W.A. 2328/24 to HIGHLANDER).
O.B. 264.	Sailed GEORGETOWN escort for O.B. 264. (F. O.I.C. Liverpool 1215/24 to C. in C. W.A.);
O.B. . 264. O.B.M. 264. O.B.C. 264.	Liverpool Section of O.B. 264 cancelled. YORK CITY to escort O.B.M. 264 to rendezvous with O.B.C. 264 in 000° Altacarry 8 miles at 1300/25. If relieved by GEORGETOWN YORK CITY to return to base. Further signal will be made appointing Commodore. (C. in C. W.A. 1352/24 to YORK CITY).
O.B. 264.	C. in C. W.A. 1528/24 request cancel instruction given Master of MOVERIA to act as Commodore as far as Oban rendezvous. S.S. CRESSENE as with Milford Haven portion. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1810/24 to ACTIVE).
	Cancel my 1352/24 and 1528/24 not to all addresses Commodore and one other ship sailed Bar Light Vessel at 1710/24 speed 10 knots and should join O.B. 264 at Clyde rendezvous. (C. in C. W.A. 1852/24 to ACTIVE).

/B.H.X. 99.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 99. — Ocean escort AURANIA returning Halifax through 43.25N. 60.00W. by 1/1 Capt 1/c Bermuda 1143/24).

F.S. 71. — Intend sail BARLAKE 1400/26 to join F.S. 71 at 200. Buoy for Granaby. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1444/24).

W.N. 57. / F.N. 65. / F.S. 69. / E.N. 46. — Rosyth movements. (C. in C. Rosyth 2351/24).

TEHANA — My 1915/23 for TRANIO read TEHANA (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0849/24).

Independent Sailings. — My 1859/21 refers to routeing only. Ships of 13 knots and over to continue to be sailed independently. Routeing as regards Cape Verde Is. to continue to conform with instructions contained in Admty 1612/19/11 and 1758/26/11. (D.T.D. 1705/24 to A.I.G. 17).

H.X. 95. — Add to 1536 (1531/22 intended) H.X. 95 058° 07'N, 011° 12'W 135° at 0300 altering to 143° (A.C.O.S. 1722/24).

My 2211/24 (ready "Following ships reported by VETERAN by aircraft in H.X. 95. should read, following ships in HX 95 reported not present by VETERAN via aircraft. (C. in C. W. A. 0912/25).

4. M.V.'s. — Intend sailing 4 mv/s including one tanker 1730/24. E.T.A. Nab. 0900/25. Request escort may be arranged. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0957/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 0957 postponed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1056/24).

5. M.V.'s. — Your 1737/23 arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1434/24).

My 1237/24 (Re sailing of Group of 5 M.V's and tug towing B.P. target escorted by KINGSTON ANDALUSITE & Pearl from Needles) sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1910/24).

/H.X. 99.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 99. Intend sailing ALAUNIA and PORPOISE as ocean escorts for H.X. 99 both returning to Halifax. (F.O.3.B.S. 1544/24 to Admty).

S.L.S. 58. S.L.S. 58. Meet (List) (C. in C. W.A. 1826/24 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER).

O.B. 264 (S). Escort GEORGETOWN from Liverpool, ACTIVE ANTELOPE TARANTELLA PICOTTEE from Clyde, and LADY MADELINE from Oban ACTIVE is Senior Officer. (Capt D. Greenock 1243/24).

Troop Convoys. W.S. 5B. Following are proposed embarkation arrangements for W.S.5 B. (20 ships) (Code Number, Present position, Preliminary Movements, Embarkation Port, Numbersto be embarded, Embarkation Dates) (D.S.T. 0344/24 to D.S.T.O's)

W.S. 5A. Route for W.S. 5A. Position H. is to be transferred fifty miles 270°. (D.O.D.(F) 1830/24 to BERWICK).

Left convoy W.S.5A. in 046° 30'N 025° 56'W. at 1330 B.S.T. All well. DUNEDIN had not joined. Intend to pass through position (a) 051° 30'N 016° 30'W (b) 056° N. 015°W (c) 056° 40' N 009° 20' W and thence via Minches to Scaps. (C.S.15. 2342/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Foreign Legion Movement.

Am anxious to know if CAPA OLMO taking part of Legion to Freetown has arrived Duala. (C.in C. S.A., 1006M/24 to DELHI).

Your 1153/22 CAPO OLMO arrived Duala 23/12 and should be able to sail with TOUAREG 25/12 as in my 1615/21. (C.in C. S.A., 1247/24 to D. of S.T.)

Your 1153/22 to N.C.S.O. Duala and your 1006/24. CAPO OLMO arrived Duala 1900/23. (DELHI, 1646/24 to C.in C. S.A.).

Operation "Ration".

Operation "RATION" is to be carried out as opportunity offers and forces allow on 26th, 27th and 28th/12.
My 2100/13 and your 0110/14. Operation should be carried out as on previous occasions. After one or two interceptions it seems probable that escort will accompany ships beyond Spanish territorial waters and occasions will then arise to stop an escorted vessel or convoy.
(V.C.N.S. 1849/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship.

Following has been read:-
QQQQ de GLD (Lands End Radio) 37° 32' N., 22° 42'W., MARSUD being followed by suspicious vessel.
(Plymouth W/T 0814/24).

S/M Patrol. Gijon.

Patrol report of USK and UNIQUE blank. UPHOLDER reports more traffic off Gijon than is reasonable, particularly three tankers apparently Spanish totalling 16 thousand tons westbound in ballast all outside territorial waters. Most Merchant vessels seen by UPHOLDER by day had Spanish colours.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1104/24 to V.A.S.).

Force H.

Arrival 1300/24/12 S.O. Force H in RENOWN, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FOXHOUND, FURY, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, DUNCAN, ISIS, WISHART, ENCOUNTER, JAGUAR, HERO, HERWARD, HASTY, CLAN FORBES, CLAN FRASER.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1304/24).

/ Convoy W.S.5A. ....

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy W.S.5A. — Admiralty 1322/19 and 1323/19. ARGUS and BONAVENTURE are to remain in company with DUNEDIN and M.T. ships. ARGUS BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN and M.T. ships part company from convoy W.S. five A as requisite to rendezvous with escort in position 057° 00' N. 016° 00' W. at 1400 zone - one, Friday 27/12. Escort consists of HERO, HEREWARD, FIREDRAKE, VIDETTE, VELOX ordered to pass through rendezvous steering 275 degrees. Speed of convoy is to be adjusted to pass Europa Point at 0500 zone - one Sunday 29/12. BONAVENTURE is to part company as requisite to pass Northern Entrance of Gibraltar at 1830 zone - one Saturday 28/12. Orders regarding Flying off and Relief Escort follow. (F.O.C.N.A. 1330/24 to ARGUS, BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN.

Air Report. — 2 routine A.S. patrols. 1 surface recce. to west. 2 A/C. escorts for H.M. ships. Area covered 3 degs. West to 9 degs. West. (200 Group 1700/24).

TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER, UNIQUE. — S.O. Force H 1601/20 to V.A. (S). After discussions with submarine Commanding Officer intend to sail TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER and UNIQUE p.m./27 to carry out patrol required by S.O. Force H on 31/12 whilst on passage to Malta. Request rest period for submarines be arranged at Malta. (F.O.C.N.A. 1706/24 to C.in C. Med.).

TRIUMPH. — V.A.(S) 1248/S/11. My 1706/24/12. Is it intended that TRIUMPH should also proceed to Malta after patrol? (F.O.C.N.A. 1720/24 to Admty.)

Azores Patrol, Situation. — Situation Report 1200/24:
S.L.59 32° 20' N. 21° 15' W. 011° 8
S.L. 59(S) 28° 40' N. 22° 20' W. 011° 6½
Force K 35° N. 30° W. 155° 15
W.S.5A. 46° N. 26° W. 170° 11
S.S. MONARCH OF BERMUDA 38° N. 22° W. 355° 17.
S.S. HELENUS 41½° N. 22° W. 355° 11½.
EL ARGENTINA 38° N. 23° W. 350° 11.
(D.O.D.(F) 1749/24 to TRIDENT, CACHALOT).

Force K., signals. — For security reasons as from 0001 G.M.T. 26/12 messages for S.O. Force K, Force K, FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK, FURIOUS, and BERWICK are to be routed on America and West Indies, and North Atlantic, and South Atlantic routines. As from 001 G.M.T./26 messages for C.S.15, NAIAD, BONAVENTURE, ARGUS, and DUNEDIN are to be routed in normal manner. (D.S.D. 1837/24, to C.in C's and F.O.C.N.A.) (489).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Enemy Raider. ~~Obs~~. D/F bearings indicate presence of an enemy surface unit in neighbourhood 026° S. 007° W. 2300 M/23.
(C.in C. S.A. 0335N/24 to S.O. Force L).

Your 0335N/24 and my 0821/24.
Bearings available her give positions near Ascension. (D.D.I.C. 0853/24 to C.in C. S.A.).

D/F bearing at 0706 G.M.T. 24/12 indicates enemy surface unit possibly near position 5° S. 15° W. Probably not alternative position for unit mentioned in my 0335/24 but different unit. Possible alternative position for unit mentioned in my 0335/24 is between St. Helena and Ascension.
(C.in C. S.A. 1125 M/24 to S.O. Force M.)

Shipping, Cape Agulhas. Following is gist of S.O.(I)Capetown's 1824/19/12: - Although merchant ships should normally be routed 40 miles south of Cape Agulhas cases have occurred where masters of heavily laden and low powered ships have considered their ships endangered thereby on account of prevailing conditions, and have therefore crossed about 15 miles south of Cape Agulhas. This is the most dangerous area. If forced by weather to keep to northward Masters should pass either within 5 miles or outside 25 miles of Cape Agulhas and this deviation to be made only if absolutely necessary as the danger of mines being laid is always present and the best safeguard is deep water. (S.O.I. Freetown to N.C.S.O's, Freetown Intelligence Area 0808/24).

SHAHRISTAN, sabotage. C.A.F.O. 1419/40. Fire occurred suddenly in number three hold of SHAHRISTAN at 0005Z/15 vessel carrying government stores from Swansea to Suez. Seat of fire traced to cases containing tins of rolled bacon loaded 21/11 at Swansea as top cargo. From available evidence appears fire could only have been started by sabotage. No possibility of spontaneous combustion. Swansea agents Strick Gerch, Stevedores Bayana. Supply note shows cases indexed 405/21 and 405/22 and cases marked J A H and Company Liverpool and St. O C P and Company Limited. Vessel is oil burning. Further search should be made when cargo is discharged Suez. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1201/24 to Admty.)

/ FURIOUS, R.A.F. personnel .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

FURIOUS
R.A.F. personnel.

X/743/24 reference our X 322/20 to A.O.C.in C. Following additional R.A.F. personnel on board FURIOUS will require onward passage to Takoradi.
Officers 42 civilians 2 Warrant Officers 4 Flight Sergeants and Sergeants 55 Airmen 44. (Air Min., 1421/24 to N.O.I.C. Freetown).

DELHI.

Arrived Cameroons River 1630/24. (DELHI, 1708/24).

DELHI.

Lagos departure 0934/23 for Manoka. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1733N/24).

CANTON.

Arrival 1630/24.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1721N/24).

Brest-Dakar, Casablanca-Dakar Cables.

It is under consideration to cut Brest-Dakar, Casablanca-Dakar cables since enemy are using these to advantage. Is French cable ship still in vicinity? (D.S.D. 1832/24 to C.in C. S.A.)

EMPIRE VOICE, HYDROUSSA.

EMPIRE VOICE due Freetown 19/12 from U.K. 2/12 and HYDROUSSA due Freetown 20/12 from Capetown 4/12 have not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1838/24 to Admty.)

COLONIAL.

Your 1628/21. Have arranged for Portuguese COLONIAL to call at Freetown. Request number of berths required. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1727/24 to C.in C. S.A.)

American Neutral Zone.

Until further notice No Neutral ship is to be stopped within so called American Neutral Zone except upon express orders from Admiralty or C.in C. S.A. Neutrals for this purpose include French Ships. Limit Zones are given in my 1920/24. (C.in C. S.A., 1927N/24).

My 1927/24. The limits of so called American neutrality zones are lines passing through following positions:
(a) 044° 46' North 060° West.
(b) 020° north 060° west
(c) 005° north 024° west
(d) 058° south 057° west
(e) 058° south 080° west
(f) Equator 097° west
(g) 015° north 120° west
(h) 048° 30' north 136° west.
(C.in C. S.A. 1929N/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Transport of Aircraft.

My 1844/8. Additional proposals.
(W.O. Force H., 1930/24)
See Mediterranean Vol.

Cables, Sollum.

Impossible provide Sollum cable diversion in period of less than three months owing to difficulty in getting suitable ship on to spot. Improvement of this situation under active consideration. Meanwhile cable ship RETRIEVER is to proceed with repairs in Red Sea.
Is any additional land cable or wireless equipment required to improve Sollum communications? (W.O. 0730/24 to C.in C. M.E.).

Special Operational Summary.
Dusk 23/12. 10 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched in 2 echelons to attack Castel Benito aerodrome.
Only one aircraft able locate target and dropped 3000 lbs. G.P. and 480 lbs. incendiary in 2 sticks from 2500 feet. Perimeter near large hangars and Northern boundary straddled. 3 explosions followed. Remaining 9 aircraft attacked Tripoli Harbour and town. First echelon 5 Wellingtons dropped 14750 lbs. G.P. and 2400 lbs. incendiaries from 6000 feet. 20 bombs seen to explode on Customs houses and jetty. Seaplane hangar hit resulting in large white fire. Near misses on Castello and railway station. Hits on jetty just North of power station and incendiaries east of same. Second echelon 4 Wellingtons dropped 12000 lbs. G.P. and 1920 lbs. incendiaries from 8000 feet. Custon House jetty hit several times resulting in many fires and one explosion. Power Station straddled. S.W. of seaplane hangars 2 explosions and fires were started. Extensive seen 50 miles away and several confirmations that explosions near seaplane hangar were caused by fuel. Considerable efforts were made to locate Castel Benito some aircraft searching for nearly 2 hours through heavy ground haze. Then chose Tripoli for target attracted by A.A. fire. All aircraft returned safely, and undamaged by A.A. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0835/24).

Alexandria.

Air raid 0345, one machine, 4 bombs in sea. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0926/24).

/ Warning of A.C. Approach. ...

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Warning of A.C. Approach.

Your 1651/27/11. The limitations referred to apply almost equally to type 281 as to type 279. Conversion by ships staff is impracticable. Dockyard time about 6 weeks. Stores required for conversion will not be available for 6 months. (D.N.D. 1037/24 to C.in C. Med.)

OTUS
OSIRIS

My 1106/21. (No trace in W/T). After passing through D. 034° 30' 014° (?18') proceed to Malta as directed by V.A. Malta adjust speed to arrive OTUS dawn 28/12 OSIRIS dawn 29/12. (Capt. S.1, 1131/24, to OTUS, OSIRIS).

Greece.

Situation. R.A.F. heavily bombed Valona this morning. Numerous aircraft on ground destroyed. 24 large merchant ships in the harbour. Also cruisers off Saseno and what seemed to be submarines in the harbour. (British M.M., Athens, to C.in C. M.E. 1205/24).

Air Report.
Libya.

Operational Summary No. 197 up to 1200 hours 24/12.
Para 1. Egypt. Day 23/12.
No bombing operations. Offensive patrols by Hurricanes between Bardia and Tobruk shot down 2 S.79's and 1 CR.42 confirmed and 1 S.79 unconfirmed. Reconnaissances by Hurricanes and Lysander of Bardia Tobruk and Giarabub reported camps at Gambut and El Adem evacuated. 60 M.T. vehicles at Giarabub. No change in military situation Bardia. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1212/24).

Malta Air Report.

"I" 179 24/12. Combined services report. Malta up to 1700 hours 24/12. All times G.M.T. 0705 - 1210.

Naples.

Glen Martin 431 flight reconnaissance Naples. In harbour 1 LITTORIO battleship 1 ZARA class cruiser in Dry Dock 5 destroyers - 2 Fleet auxiliaries 10,000 tons - 4 M/Vs. 12,000 tons - 1 hospital ship and a number of small M/Bs. up to 2,000 tons. 1 M/V 7,000 tons entering harbour. 1 S, 79 shot down into the sea in flames.

/ Taranto .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Taranto.

0745 - 1214. Glenn Martin 431 flight reconnaissance Taranto. Outer harbour - 1 damaged CAVOUR battleship with 3 destroyers alongside. 1 other battleship and 1 cruiser - 12 M/V's. 6,000 tons 1 M/V 5,000 tons. Inner harbour - 6 cruisers 9 destroyers - and 1 M/V 6,000 tons. 29 Cant.Z. 501's or 506's. Balloons were flying at 8,000 feet from Southern Jetty and southern reaches outer harbour. Operations by Wellingtons of 148 Squadron against Tripoli harbour and Castel Benito night 23/24 December reported in my "I" 178 24/12.
No enemy air activity over Malta.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Med., 1700/24).

OTUS
OSIRIS
TRUANT
PARTHIAN
TETRARCH

Captain (S) 1's 1131/24. From D proceed direct to 035° 31' North 014° 31' East thence to arrive off grand harbour at 0700 on day ordered. Delimara Light will be exhibited from 0200 on both days. TRUANT will leave Malta at 1715/28 through (corrupt group) 38' N. 014° 07' E. thence on approximate course. PARTHIAN and H.M.S. TETRARCH will probably leave Malta at about (?same time) through same position thence South to 35° North before proceeding on patrol. All times zone minus (-) one.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2015/24 to OTUS and OSIRIS).

Main Force.

Arrivals 24/12 C.in C. Mediterranean in WARSPITE, ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT, DAINTY, DIAMOND, ILEX, FIONA, PERTH 14th Destroyer Flotilla (less GRIFFIN).
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 1825/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Contraband Trade. Persian Gulf.

From Brigadier French (Inspector General of Censors)24/12. Following is gist of memorandum on the Gulf Trade compiled from intercepts by Bombay Censorship. Normally Bombay is the clearing centre for business correspondence concerning this trade. Goods are reaching Iran via Black and Caspian Seas from Germany. Iran pre-war exported wheat now trying purchase 30,000 tons Karachi. Iraq carefully watching exports. There may be leakage to enemy of commodities from Java India Straits Ceylon through Bahrein Kuwait Dubai Gwadar and Iraq. Authorities in these places when they exercise control do not appear to stop goods marked on arrival for re-export presumably assuming countries of origin watch this. Doubtful whether these countries appreciate resultant risk. Indian currency regulations permit finance by India of goods shipped Japan and Dutch East Indies to Persia to countries classified as Empire. All Gulf ports not in Iran are so classified. Memorandum posted by air 19/12. Please say if your evidence confirms above information.

Contraband Control and stronger naval forces in Gulf are best means of hampering this trade but severe limitation of exports from India Burma Straits Ceylon Java under Unified Control would help. Smuggling by dhows from west coast profitable and not difficult. Whole question most complicated. Failing contraband Control strongly recommend strong and experienced M.E.W. Officers in Gulf and India to investigate and collaborate. So far as possible have verified memorandum from censorship records which appear careful and detailed. Mails transmitting Bombay to and from Japan Iraq are comparatively small but there are alternative routes namely. (1) Air (2) Surface Quetta and Calcutta (3) Siberian Railway (4) Direct Boat. Three and four would evade all censorship. Three is in use. F.O.C.R.I.N. concurs in views expressed in foregoing telegram. (Ends).
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0559Z/24 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

SHROPSHIRE. SHROPSHIRE is to leave (? Aden) a.m./27 and proceed to Mombasa adjusting speed to arrive a.m./31.
(C.in C. E.I. 0806Z/24).

QUEEN MARY. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Adty. 1967/18 para.3. It is understood that QUEEN MARY will visit Trincomalee again in February and both QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH in April. In these circumstances it is considered preferable that tug SIR CUTHBERT RUSSEL should remain at Trincomalee after January transhipment rather than return to Vizagapatam against monsoon and be obliged to make passage again a month later. Can this be arranged?
(C.in C. E.I. 1210Z/24 to D. of S.T.)

Ship Recognition. My 1412/18/11. Request early reply. The number of suggestions I am receiving from H.M.Ships and merchant ships confirms my opinion of the urgent need for a satisfactory system of recognition between them by day and night A.M.1280/21, further emphasises it.
(C.in C. E.I. 1350/24 to Adty).

SHILLONG. Q Message. My 1856/16. * No confirmation of SHILLONG'S report yet received. Request Masters who were in the vicinity may be questioned.
(C.in C. E.I. 1416Z/23 to A.C.N.B. etc.)

* (Re Q distress signal received by SHILLONG).

Aden Air Report. Hois Bombed. Summary No. 196 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 24/12. Following Sorties of 8 Sqdn. attacked Hois 10° 53'N, 46° 54'E. At 1145 low pattern bombing by 3 Blenheims apparently considerably damaged sheds. At 1150, low dive bombing by 3 Blenheims further damaged target. No opposition. 1 Blenheim 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. 3 Gladiators 94 Squadron patrolled over Aden 1030 to 1105. Kamaran reports single aircraft flew over Kamaran and Northern Approaches at great height 1130 22/12.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1815/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

N.E.I. Navy Co-Operation.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No.37 to C.in C. Far East, and C.in C. China. (Begins) Ref: C.in C. China's 0241Z/4, 0141Z/28 and report on Staff Conversations with representatives of Netherlands East Indies.

Following action is authorised or being implemented here.

1. Liaison Officers will be despatched shortly.

2. N.E.I. G. has agreed to use Allied Naval Code. Preparation of code for Air Forces is being considered. Army code not required.

3. F.O. have been asked to secure Dutch approval for British and Australian air forces to establish facilities at Dutch aerodromes.

4. Dominions Office are asking Australia to agree to 3 above and to make necessary arrangements with Dutch through you.

5. Air Ministry will arrange for reciprocal facilities to be granted to Dutch.

6. When agreement in principle on 3 and 4 above is reached, you are requested to co-ordinate whole problem.

7. What constitutes an act of war by Japan can only be decided by H.M.G. at the time. Meanwhile for planning purpose you should assume that war may break out as a result of hostile act by Japan, precise form of which cannot be foreseen.

8. Steps will be taken here to secure ddivery of ordered armaments and munitions for Netherlands East Indies. Priority will however, be low.

9. Foreign Office and Colonial Office have been asked to hasten completion of arrangements for interning or controlling Japanese in Tawao, Si Amil and Malaya.

10. Foreign Office have been asked to approach Portuguese Government with a view to preventing further concessions in Timor.

11. Governments of Australia and New Zealand are being informed in confidence of results of conversations. (Ends).
(1st S.L. 2132/24 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.3.4.B. Arrival 1300Z/24 SOUTHAMPTON. Departure 1900Z/24 KANDAHAR for W.3.4.B. (H.O.I.C. Aden, 1903Z/24).

China.

N.E.I. Navy Representatives. Chiefs of Staff No.37 to C.in C. Far East and C.in C. China. Action authorised or being implemented on report of staff conversations with N.E.I.representatives. (1st S.L. to C.in C. China 2153/24). See Operations Volume.

Aerodromes. Malaya. My 0931/23. Latest information concerning R.A.F. developments in Malaya is given in H.Q. F.East's message A.C.A.195 of 23/12 to Air Ministry. (C.in C. China 0929Z/24 to Adty).

America and West Indies.

COMORIN. Arrived Halifax December 24 from B.X.H.97. (S.O.(I) Halifax 0845/24).

RAJPUTANA. LACONIA. Halifax (arrival ?) 23/12 RAJPUTANA from H.X.94. Departure LACONIA ocean escort H.X.90. (S.O.(I) Halifax 0930/24).

DESPATCH. To leave Jamaica 28/12 and proceed to Nassau arriving 30/12. Probable duration of visit three days. Governor Bahamas informed. (C.in C. A.M.I. 1132/24 to S.O. W.I.F.)

A/S Yachts. 368. Three A/S/M fitted Yachts, VISON HUSKY and ELK loaned by N.S.H. Ottawa for winter have arrived at Bermuda. VISON and HUSKY are being sent immediately to Trinidad and ELK is being retained at Bermuda for the present. These are only A/S/M fitted vessels available to me until stores to complete type 123A fitted and being fitted at Bermuda in other vessels are sent. I am concerned about state of A/S defence particularly at Trinidad where Force K. may be temporarily based at any time, and request shipment of outstanding store may now be treated as most urgent. My 1642/20/11 and my 1223/7/12 refer. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1222/24 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Canadian Destroyers for Western Approaches.

Your 2156/22/12. (Request for any ships you can send us for escorts.) ASSINIBOINE RESTIGOUCHE ST.FRANCIS COLUMBIA will be sailed for Western Approaches via St.John N.F. about 15/1/41, or earlier if this date can be improved upon. Halifax destroyer force will then be cut to a clinch with one only seaworthy TOWN class speed presently limited 24 knots.
(C.N.S. Canada, 1257/24 to Adty).

SIBONEY.

Following from N.A.W. 1130/19 from N.A. Madrid to S.O.(I) Bermuda. American ship SIBONEY sailed Lisbon for Bermuda 20/12. Careful search should be made for these documents which should be photostated and returned to LISTO. Photostat copies should be sent to N.A.W. first available opportunity.
(N.A.W.D. 1844/24 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

Raider Survivors.

My 0704Z/24. (Survivors from captured ships). District officer Kaveing now reports Hopkins, Chief Officer RANGITANE, and survivors were landed Ermiau P.M./21. Ships from which landed were - KULMERLAND (German) MARVIK (Norwegian) HANYO MARU (Japanese) latter two 22½ knots, eight 6 guns, two torpedo tubes, multiple pom pom A.A. guns, 3 bomber seaplanes. Four persons who have reached Kaveing state survivors include persons from RANGITANE TURAKINA RINGWOOD HOTOU HOLMWOOD TRIONA VINNI TRIASTER KOMATA TRIADIC. (Ends).
1835Z/24.

PORT BRISBANE. raider attack lessons.

Raider attack on PORT BRISBANE, lessons learnt. Part one. Ships in vicinity of an attack must not assume (a) Darkness in itself gives protection (b) Lapse of time modifies danger. They should at night (a) Ensure proper darkening (b) Post a look-out destroyer beam (c) Be prepared to fight shortest warning (d) Make radical alteration of course after dark.
Part Two. Efficient night sights are desirable but not essential at night range.
Part Three. Use of siren at night for action station is undesirable as it may draw fire before station can be assumed.
(A.C.N.C. 1910Z/24 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HEINRICH ARP.

German merchant ship HEINRICH ARP arrived Bilbao 22/12. (D.D.I.C. 1056/24 to P.O.[illegible].N.A.)

My 2111/21 ship arrived Bilbao December 22nd. (V.A.S. 1202/24).

LA PLATA, HEINRICH ARP.

Departure December 23rd LA PLATA German ship HEINRICH ARP Destination unknown. (Bilbao 1248/24).

LA PLATA and German ship HEINRICH HIB left here 2215/23. (Bilbao 1545/24).

KULMERLAND

Landing of captives from. (See FOREIGN STATIONS, Australia).

ATLAS

Arrived 24/12. (Valencia, 0014/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ARACATACA.
(torpedoed 22/11).

In continuation of my 2140/23 Chief Officer reports ARACATACA torpedoed at 2130/22/11 in 036° 30' N. 029° 13' W. believed to be by submarine, but enemy not seen. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 1751/24).

Your 2140/23, stating POTARO arrived Buenos Aires 23/12 with survivors of ARACATACA.
Request full details of sinking of ARACATACA. Nothing known in Admiralty. (D.D.I.C. 1933/24 to N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires).

MANGIN
(torpedoed 21/12).

Swedish Steamer MANGIN 1,253 tons, sunk by torpedo at 2118/21 in 40.45 North 16.50 West.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1753/24 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

1251.

Italian U Boat in approx. position 044° North 003° to 004° West at 1251/24. Probably inward bound for Bordeaux. (V.A.S. 1419/24 to S/M's on patrol, Area B).

C.in C. Rosyth 1644 (see S/M's attacked). Arrange search by destroyers for submarine on assumption she is passing north of Muckle Flugga homeward bound. (C.in C. H.F., 1851/24 to R.A. D.A.F.)

C.in C. Home Fleet's 1851/24.
Three Destroyers leave Scapa 2020/24 and should arrive vicinity of Muckle Flugga about 0200. Request air co-operation if possible. (A.C.O.S. 2011/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

C.in C. Rosyth's 1644/24. D/F on 4795 Kcs. at 2011/24 indicates U/Boat to the N. Westward of Shetlands. (D.D.I.C. 2051/24).

A.C.O.S. 2011/24 Sunderland aircraft takes off from Sollum Voe at 0915/25 and proceeds to position 000 degs. Muckle Flugga 20 miles, then 125, carries out a creeping line ahead search on a 20 mile front on a course of 120 degs. for 100 miles unless contact is obtained with you or until Homed on to you by W/T.
Beaufort aircraft carrying out patrol Viking consisting two circuits of cross over 059 degs. 30' north 000 degs. 42' east 061 degs. 00' north 001 degs. 18' east 061 degs. 00' north 000 degs. 42' east 059 degs. 30' north 001 degs. 18' east during daylight hours tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2252/24 to Capt. D.8).

/ 2134. ....

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2134. Following has been read.
SUBMARINE ATTACK.
56° 12'N., 7° 25'W., submarine in vicinity GLOUCESTER CITY 2034 G.M.T.
(Plymouth W/T, T.O.R. 2137/24).

Signals of D/F Fixes. Admiralty's 1826/21. Considered that there are strong reasons for broadcasting "EN CLAIR" all D/F fixes of U Boats in areas frequented by shipping. (reasons). (C.in C. W.A. 1810/24, to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 may have left Madeira area probably for Bordeaux
1 in area Canaries - Cape Juby
1 patrolling Azores area
2 bound for Gironde are N.W. and S.W. of Finisterre respectively about 10° W.
1 bound for Gironde about 47° N., 15° W.
4 more probably moving south from 54° N. or 55° N. keeping west of 18° W.
1 moving north in about 51° 30' N. keeping east of 18° W., others probably following.
German.
1 was about 60° N. 15° W. at 0733/23.
1 may be northbound somewhere about 39° N. 15° W.
1 somewhere about 50° N., to 51° N., 16° W. to 17° W. bound for Lorient.
1 about 57° N. 17° W. at 1203/24.
3 in area 57° N. to 60° N., 18° W. to 21° W.
1 N.E. of Muckle Flugga bound for Bergen or Germany.
(D.D.I.C. 1255/24).

Transport of U/B's to Italy. Susak has been informed by local sympathisers, reliability unassessable, that submarines in sections are arriving in Trieste from Germany for assembly at Monfalcone Yards. Hull arriving in three sections each section on one large railway truck. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1136/24).

N.I.D. Note Reports have been received since August of submarine sections being sent from Germany to Trieste for assembly at Monfalcone. Lately these reports have increased in number and one speaks of such a submarine of 250 tons having been launched at Monfalcone, where her trials were not a success.
Little credence is attached to the reports because:-
(a) The source is graded low
(b) When Bordeaux was being prepared as a base similar reports of Italian submarines being sent through France were received and proved to be false, and
(c) It would be much easier for U boats to be passed through the Straits of Gibraltar.

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1214, by a/c.

FORM ORANGE.
(A) DYCE DYC/04/24/12.
(B) A/C Y/48 sighted periscope 58.31 N., 06.48 W. - Low level attack - 1 bomb - no result observed. Drs. called from CV 3 miles west. Time of incident 1214.
(C) Anson Y/48 1st escort to LETITIA, CALIFORNIA, and CHITRAL contacted 58.15 N., 05.48 W. at 1005 hours. Landed Stornoway 1250. (Pitreavie 1420/24 to Admty.)

Aircraft reports having attacked submarine sighted at periscope depth in position 060° 31' North 005° 48' West at 1215. No result was observed. Aircraft reported by V/S to DOUGLAS and KEPPEL, another aircraft being sent to search until dark. (C.in C. Rosyth 1450/24).

1530.

Aircraft reports attacking submarine in position 060° 25' north 002° 34' west at 1530. Pilot first saw air bubbles and oil and when over position the outline of a submerged submarine. After attack bubbles ceased and although aircraft remained in vicinity for 15 minutes nothing further seen. Interrogated pilot who was definite he saw the submarine. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1644/24).

RHODODENDRON.

Their Lordships consider that your attack on a U-Boat on 21/11/1940, probably achieved its destruction. They congratualte you and your ships company on this success which was all the more creditable in the rough weather conditions in which the attack was carried out. (D. A/S.W. 1349/24 to RHODODENDRON).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Air photographs show some increased railway activity at Trondheim, Calais, Boulogne, and Nantes; but, except at Trondheim, there appears to be no increase of rolling stock and there are no signs of loading at any of the quays which are visible.

British Air Activity.

Some Routine Patrols were flown today, and Air Escort for 17 convoys was provided. In view of the Air attack on the Convoy Anchorage at Oban on the 23rd, A/C are being instructed to keep clear of that Anchorage unless engaged in operations and to avoid flying in the Kyles of Loch Alsh unless this is necessary for operations. A/C of 804 Squadron Fleet Air Arm shot down at 1412 today a Junker 88 near Skeabrae in the Orkneys.

Enemy Air Activity.

All the usual Zenit Flights were carried out today; and Enemy R/C Aircraft oporated in the Channel, Bristol Channel, Thames Estuary, N.E. Coast of Scotland, and the Orkneys. One A/C dropped bombs near Convoy E.N. 46 off the Firth of Tay at 1650 this afternoon, and Convoy ARENA was shadowed by one A/C off Clacton at 0855.

Mining.

A Mine was detonated this morning 4 miles S.W. of Rame Head, Plymouth, by M.G.B. 50 which returned to Fowey.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

BERWICK, Action With Enemy Cruiser.

At 0342/25, BERWICK, in position 44'N. 25° W. escorting Convoy W.S.5A, (Troop convoy of 19 ships) which left U.K. on 18/12, reported a capital ship of the DEUTSCHLAND ∅ class bearing 290° 12 miles from her. At 0915, she reported the enemy as an 8-in. cruiser, and an hour later that he had disappeared in thick weather to westward on course 290°. BERWICK thought the enemy had not sighted the convoy. The position of convoy was then some 660 miles West of C. Finisterre. Enemy was last seen at 0956Z in 43° 36'N. 25° 12' W.
At 0930, CLEMATIS (corvette, one of the convoy escort) reported she had engaged an unknown raider in 43.47 N., 24° W., (about 660 miles W. of Cape Finisterre) that BONAVENTURE (cruiser, ~~6 6 inch~~ 10 5.25-inch) and DUNEDIN (cruiser, 6 6 inch) were pursuing, and that EMPIRE TROOPER (transport, ex-German CAP NORTE, 13,615 tons) had been damaged. Convoy had then been scattered by Commodore's orders. No British forces other than those with W.S.5A were within 200 miles of the position.

At 1019, Force H at Gibraltar was ordered to raise steam with all despatch, and at 1038 was ordered to sea. It left at 1400, consisting of RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, and destroyers FAULKNOR, FOXHOUND, FIREDRAKE, FORTUNE, DUNCAN, WISHART, HERO and HEREWARD.

At 1046 §15th Cruiser Squadron (NAIAD and BONAVENTURE), which had formed part of the convoy escort, (but were then, on the way back, (in about 50° 40' N. 18° 35' W. some 460 miles to the northward) were ordered to close the enemy, but at 1733, NAIAD was ordered to return to Scapa.

BERWICK fought a short action with the enemy. She was seen to open fire by FURIOUS at 0842 G.M.T., in position given by dead reckoning of FURIOUS and ARGUS as 43.20 N., 24.20 W. Visibility was poor (later estimated at half a mile). BERWICK claimed one hit certain on the enemy abaft the funnel, possibly more. Her own damage included "X" turret out of action, a hit below the water line on starboard side, a shell through forward boiler room, one 4-in gun out of action, and the midship funnel holed.
Four marines were killed and one dangerously wounded.

BONAVENTURE reported at 1120 that touch had been lost with the enemy, who was last seen at 0956Z in 43.36 N., 25.12 W., steering 290°.

There were indications during the morning of several U-boats on the convoy route to eastward of the Azores.

At 1224/25 .....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

BERWICK, Action With Enemy Cruiser. (Contd.)

At 1224/25, FURIOUS, in 43.19 N., 25.11 W., with ARGUS in company, reported she was flying off reconnaissance aircraft and intended to continue the hunt, but at 1345 the weather obliged her to abandon flying and to rejoin the convoy.

At 1308, C.in C. Home Fleet ordered REPULSE and NIGERIA, screened by 4 destroyers, to sea from Scapa to give protection to Convoys H.X.97 and S.C.16, then in position about 53° N.

At 1324, Convoy W.S.5A and escorts were ordered by the Admiralty to steer for Gibraltar. Meantime, Force H proceeded at high speed towards 37° N., 16° W., intending to join the convoy.

At 1531 N., DUNEDIN (one of the convoy escort) reported that when proceeding to rejoin convoy she had met CITY OF CANTERBURY and was taking her to 41° N., 19° W. (some 200 miles to south east). Her position was then 42.30 N. 23.25 W.

The situation about this time viz. 3 p.m. was that the cruisers BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN, and aircraft carriers, ARGUS and FURIOUS were in the vicinity of BERWICK. The convoy (some 250 miles North of Azores) had scattered.
The Admiralty had ordered convoy and escorts to steer for Gibraltar.
Vice Admiral C.S.15 in NAIAD was a long way off to the Northward 50.50 N., 18.40 W., steaming at 20 kts. on 220°.
Force K (FORMIDABLE aircraft carrier and NORFOLK cruiser) was to S.W. of the Azores, steering to meet the convoy.
Force H had left Gibraltar and was proceeding West at high speed to 37° N. 16° W.
CACHALOT (submarine, from Azores Patrol) was in about 40° N., 19° W., (some 220 miles away) on her way to UK., and TRIDENT, which had relieved her, was in the vicinity of the Azores.
DERBYSHIRE (A.M.C., South Atlantic Station) was patrolling off the Azores within 100 miles of 39.20 N., 21.40 W.
CATHAY (A.M.C.), ~~and~~ Sierra Leone convoy S.L.59 homeward bound were in about 35.20 N., 20.30 W. some 450 miles to the southward.
KENYA was later ordered by C.in C., W.Approaches to R.V. and escort this convoy.

/ At 1654. ....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

BERWICK, Action With Enemy Cruiser.

At 1654. Force K was ordered to join BERWICK and Convoy W.S.5A. Force H was ordered to R.V. with BERWICK and escort the Convoy until Force K joined, after which Force K was to escort it to Freetown.
Force H, with BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN and ARGUS were then to escort merchant ships for "Excess", and Operation "Excess" was to be postponed 24 hours by S.O. Force H if necessary.

At 1920 the Admiralty ordered DORSETSHIRE (cruiser South Atlantic Station at Freetown) to join Force K. (She was reported next day by C.in C. S.A. as ready to leave Freetown on the morning of the 27th).

The transport EMPIRE TROOPER had been hit by the raider and from 1500 G.M.T. distress messages began to come in from her. The CYCLAMEN, corvette (with her W/T out of action), had met her and was standing by her at 1648 G.M.T.
At 1930 BONAVENTURE was proceeding to her assistance.

At midnight, BERWICK was attempting to collect the convoy, scattered after the attack.
They had been given at 1540/24, a rendezvous in 39.08 N., 21.38 W. at noon/26 (about 300 miles to southeast of position where they scattered) by the Commodore of the Convoy for which BERWICK was making.

At 2344 the Admiralty ordered S.O. Force H to take charge at the moment he considered appropriate, warning him and BERWICK that convoy position "LARK" (43.40 N., 23.50 W) had probably been compromised.

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

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C.in C. Mediterranean is most concerned at the Admiralty decision to retain N class destroyers in home waters, having hoped for them to alleviate a situation which may shortly become critical. It has not been possible to spare a destroyer to refit since August 11.

R.A.F. Middle East, reports having bombed Valona yesterday and machine gunned heavily a cruiser in the harbour.

East Indies.

CARLISLE, SOUTHAMPTON and KIMBERLEY left Aden this morning to join Convoy W.S.4B (10 transports with troops for Middle East). SAGITTA (armed boarding vessel) completed a reconnaissance of the Somali Coast from Bandar Kassim to Heis. At Heis, dhows were found and some stores on the beach. A few rounds were fired at the stores and a house close by. There were 2 naval casualties, not serious, from machine gun fire at 1500 yards.

German Merchant Ships.

The LA PLATA and HEINRICH ARP left Bilbao for an unknown destination about noon yesterday.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME (CHANNEL).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 2330/25. (D.O. 2350/25.)

Movements.

OTTAWA,
ST.LAURENT.
RETA.
COLUMBIA.
ENGLAND.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0015/25.)

KASHMIR,
PUNJABI,
JERSEY.

Arrived at Plymouth 1050/24.
(C. in C. W.A. 0024/25.)

Nore Command.

Ships of Command out of Action.
(C. in C. Nore 0754/25.)

ACTIVE,
ANTELOPE.

Repairs completed 24/12. Sailed for Greenock (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0952/25.)

G.13 and G.15.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1000/25.)

MANCHESTER CITY.

Will be ready to sail 28/27 if firemen or stokers can be found.(F.O.I.C.Glasgow 1006/25.)

KENYA,
KASHMIR,
PUNJABI,
JERSEY.

Raise steam for full speed with all despatch.(C. in C.W.A. 1040/25.)
KENYA sailed 2052/25.(C. in C.W.A.0008/26.

SCARBOROUGH.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1210/25.)

VENOMOUS.

Sail to meet H.X.96 at 1000/27. R.S.T. in 60° 12' N. 15° W.(C. in C. W.A. 1232/25. to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

VULCAN.

Sailed Southend for Portsmouth.
E.T.A. Dover 1930.(F.O.I.C. Thames 1313/25 to C. in C. Nore.)

SHEARWATER.

Arrived 1312/25.(F.O.I.C.Harwich 1319/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

REPULSE,
NIGERIA,
SOMALI,
MATABELE,
KASHONA,
SEKHO.

Sailed Scapa 1500/25. (A.C.O.S.1515/25.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/25.)

SHELDRAKE.

Arrived 1613/25.(F.O.I.C.Harwich 1634/25.

BRIGHTON.

My 1121/24. Expect will sail AM/27 for Portland.(C. in C.W.A.1703/25.)

ICARUS.

Arrived Scapa from Humber. (A.C.O.S. 1940/25.)

AURORA.

May be sailed to Scapa at your discretio (V.C.N.S. 2157/25 to C. in C. H.F.)
Return to Scapa with moderate despatch. (C. in C. H.F. 2356/25 to AURORA.)

WOLSEY.
VERDUN.

Arrived with F.N.66. (C. in C. Rosyth 2315/25.)

VERSATILE,
VALOROUS.

Sailed with F8.70.(C. in C. Rosyth 2315/25.)

KENYA.

Sailed from Plymouth 2052/25.(C. in C. W.A. 1014/26.)

Operations.

M.T.B's between Ostend and Hook.

Arrived M.T.B's 31 and 32 at 0943. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1044/25.)

M.T.B.'s between. Dieppe and Boulogne.

Intend M.T.B's 69 and 70 to operate tonight, leaving Dover at midnight and returning 0800/26.(V.A. Dover 1230/25.

Submarines.

L. 23.

Will be in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 0946/25.)

MINERVE.

My 1554/22. Intend sailing 1630/26. (C. in C. W.A. 1444/25.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

H.31. Arrived Rothesay (S.7. 1536/25.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1730/25.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/26.
(V.A.S.1737/25.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. 2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0845 for Flamborough and return (C. in C. Rosyth 0800/25.) Patrol S.9. being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0812/25.)

Oban Area. Flying Restrictions. My 1911/24. Request all R.A.F. Authorities concerned may be informed.

(a) That there is an important convoy assembly anchorage off South West side of Lismore Island Near Oban. Aircraft should keep clear of this area unless approach is necessary for operations.

(b) That Aircraft should avoid flying in the vicinity of the Kyles of Loch Alsh unless this is necessary for operations.(D. of L.D. 2145/25 to Air Ministry.)

R/C. of Oban. A/A Defences. Your 1911/24. Fighter Command organising reconnaissance as requested. (Air Ministry 1720/25 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy ARENA. Being shadowed by one A/C in 51° 41' N. 1° 19' E.(VANITY 0855/25.)

Orkneys. One Enemy A/C, believed Junker 88, shot down near Skeabrae, Orkneys, by A/C of 804 Sqdn. at 1412. No details of survivors so far.(A.C.O.S. 1438/25.)

The Naze. Coast Guard Naze reports at 1630 two bursts of M.G. fire heard E.N.E. of Naze Lookout at distance.(F.O.I.C.Harwich 1635/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

TUVA. (Beached at Oban after Air-Raid 23/12.) Floated and re-beached at 1500/25 near Lochnell Bay.(N.O.I.C. Oban 2220/25.) Unexploded Bomb discovered in Ship's side (N.O.I.C. Oban 2250/26.)

Firth of Tay. One A/C dropped 2 Bombs near Convoy EN.46 at 1650 today.(D.S.478.)

Mining.

Kuydcote Pass. Your 1626/21. Request you arrange for laying in Kuydcote Pass at first opportunity. Decision as to other areas will be communicated.(V.C.N.S. 1155/25. to C. in C. Nore.)

Plymouth. R.N.O. Fowey's 1040/25. H.O.S.50 struck a Mine 4 miles S.W. of Dane Head and is returning to Fowey. E.T.A. 1400. (C. in C. W.A. 1256/25.)

Liverpool. S.S. VICTORIA exploded 3 mines at 1400/23 inward bound. Exploded a further 4 mines at 2330/23 outward bound. Speed on both occasions 20 knots. No mine exploded nearer than 50 yards from vessel. All mines exploded between position 3 miles west of Bar L.V. and S.1. black. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1301/25.)

INTREPID. Arrived Scapa 1025 from Humber.(A.C.O.S. 1305/25.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coastal Shipping. My 1145/18.(One) It is reported from North Norway that 14 vessels have left Kirkenes with iron ore for Germany since early November. Further stated some of those were sunk, in consequence crews have been declining to sail in ? certain ships from Kirkenes. 6 3.

2. Today's press states war insurance rates north of Trondjhem have been doubled.(N.A. Stockholm 1250/24 to D.N.I.)

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.Contd.

M/V. in Western Channel.

Aircraft report a 3000-5000 Ton M/V in 49° 31' N. 4° 20' W. at 1712/25 steering 345° at 10 knots. (C. in C. W.A.2140/25 to KENYA.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

LE TRIOMPHANT. Your 1524/23. Unable to sail owing to defect. (Capt. D. Greenock 1207/25. to C. in C. W.A.)

C.S.O. 264.

ODYSSEUS. N.C.S.O. Clyde 1945/24. Ashore at Kames by Rothesay since leaving Greenock. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1445/25.)

S.E. 59.

O.B. 257.

H.I. 97.

S.I. 38.

H.I. 96. Root (O. in C. W.A. 2158/25 be ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, FLAME OF LYS, GARDENIA, VENOMOUS).

S.I. 59. KENYA to R. V. and escort (O. in C. W.A. 1922/25) See Convoy and Relief notice.

O.B.J. 264. Sailed 0000. Escorts ACHATE, ROCHESTER, HEATHER, ANTELOPE.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0020/25).
Sailed ANTELOPE to overtake
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0630/25.)

O.B. 264. To keep clear of H.I. 96. Amended route for O.B. 264 from 270° Ctarney 6 miles through 033° 30'W. 000° 00'T then route previously entered.
(O. in C. W.A. 1104/25).

H.G. 43. HACKNESS H.G. 43 arrived Barry Dock. Escort SOMERSET left for Milford Haven (N.O.I.C. Barry 0735/25).

H.I. 99. 0700/25, 10 ships, routed through Firth of Lorne.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1031/25).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	Situation at 0900/25 (D.T.D. 1145/25 to C. in C. H.F.)
H.X. 98.	Date and route. Escort LACONIA returns Halifax (D.T.D. 1219/25).
O.B.C. 264.	Sailed 0600/25. Escort LADY MADELINE. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1235/25).
S.C. 18.	Route and date. (D.T.D. 1317/25).
W.N. 59.	0700/25. 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1438/25).
O.B. 267.	Route. To remain in company to 25°W. (D.T.D. 1504/25).
H.X. 97.	Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1623/25).
S.L. 58.	Splitting 0300/26. Escorting for Oban. SARDONYX for Clyde, ANEMONE for Liverpool, HELIOTROPE detached to escort PETER CAREY, LA MALOUINE not in company (BROKE, 2125/25).
H.X. 96.	Meet (C. in C. W.A. 2158/25 to ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA, VENOMOUS).
S.L. 59.	KENYA to R. V. and escort (C. in C. W.A. 1922/25) See Convoy and Raider Action.
O.B.C. 264.	Sailed 0005. Escorts ACTIVE, PICOTEE, HEATHER, ANTELOPE. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0020/25). Sailed ANTELOPE to overtake (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0630/25.)
O.B. 264.	To keep clear of H.X. 95. Amended route for O.B. 264 from 270° Oversay 6 miles through 055° 50'N, 008° 00'W then route previously ordered. (C. in C. W.A. 1104/25).
H.G. 48.	MACBRAE H.G. 48 arrived Barry Road. Escort ROSEMARY left for Milford Haven (N.O.I.C. Barry 0735/25).
W.N. 59.	0700/25, 10 ships, routed through Firth of Lorne. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1031/25).

/H.X. 95....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 95.	Am proceeding to intercept (WOLVERINE 1100/25). In view of favourable weather forecast and present speed 9 knots (proceed ? to) concur Stornaway can be reached without Tug. (WOLVERINE 2150/25).
F.S. 68.	Reported at East Oaze 12 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 115/25).
E.N. 47.	Sailed 1830/26, 22 ships (13 overseas). Escorts PAYNTER, ARTIC EXPLORER, WOLFHOUND. Buchan Ness 1200/27. Duncansby Head 1100/28. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1445/25).
E.N. 46. F.N. 67. F.S. 70. F.S. 71.	25/26. E.N. 46 Kinnaird Head 1500/25. Inchcolm to Moray Firth F.N. 67 20C buoy 2200/25 F.S. 70 C buoy 0300/26 F.S. 71 leave Methil 2300/25 (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/25).
S.L. 58.	HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER sailed for S.L. 58. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1650/25).
S.L. 59.	Request sail KENYA to R/V with and afford ocean escort to S.L. 59 (D.D.O.D. 1652/25 to C. in C. W.A.).
O.B. 266.	Request arrange CRISPIN to sail with Clyde portion of O.B. 266 if practices completed. (C. in C. W.A. 2022/25 to F.O.C.N.P.).
W.N. (? 175)	Intend S/M H. 34 be included sailing Clyde 30/12. Request she may be sailed in first F.S. Convoy for Southend after Methil and onward escort arranged from Southen to Sheerness. (Capt (S) 7th 1540/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
KENT.	My 1846/21. Report your position at approximately 0500/22 and what W/T watch was being kept at the time. (C. in C. W.A. 1146/25 to KENT). KENT reporting position 050° 12 miles from Orlock Hill at 1621. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1651/25);
M.V's	My 1208/25 add 1 M.V. Dartmouth, Plymouth 0200 1000 1 M.V. Falmouth westward 1559 blank. (C. in C. W.A. 1808/25).

/H.X. 97.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 97.)
S.C. 16.)

Position. REPULSE and NIGERIA to support (See Convoy and Raider under FOREIGN STATIONS-.

F.S. 69.

Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0201/25).

W.N. 58.

Rettsay Head 0115 (CAPE ARGONA 0130/25).

E.N. 47.
W.N. 60.

Sail at 0900/26. For exercises and Methil. Act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N. 47 sailing at 1830/26. On meeting transfer to W.N. 60 due Cape Wrath 0100/28 and Duncansby 1100/28.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1129/25 to WOLFHOUND).

H.X. 96.

Meet H.X. 96 30 ships unescorted 1000 27/12 101 60° 12'N. 15° 00' W 101° 8 knots then through 60° 00'N 15° 00'W. 58° 00'N 09° 30'W split in 56° 30'N 08° 40'W. Route K keeping North of QZX 229 (D) 56° 05'N 06° 38'W 56° 16'N 05° 48'W 56° 22'N 05° 39'W thence to anchorage in Lynn of Lorne North of Black Island.
(C. in C. W.A. 1758/25 to VENEMOUS, ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA).

Troop Convoys.

T.C.8.

Arrived Clyde PASTEUR, COLUMBIA and PENNLAND, H.M.S. OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT and BATH. MONTGOMERY proceeding Londonderry.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0015/25).

W.S. 5(B).

Following ships sailing in W.S. 5(B) are required to load personnel at ports shown, and will be ready to clear their present berths on dates indicated. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange sailing accordingly:-
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD Liverpool to Newport ready Dec. 29th.
HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN Liverpool to Clyde ready Dec. 27th.
WINDSOR CASTLE Liverpool to Avonmouth ready Dec. 27th.
WINCHESTER CASTLE Liverpool to Avonmouth ready Dec. 27th.
EMPRESS OF JAPAN Belfast to Clyde ready December 28th.
(D.O.D(H). 1539/25 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.40.

H.M.S. BERWICK escorting Troop Convoy W.S.5(a) slow, came into action with a German 8-in. gun cruiser, (at first reported as a pocket battleship of DEUTSCHLAND class) on December 25 about 0930 B.S.T.
(Note) W.S.5A consisting of 11 troopships and 8 munition ships sailed from Clyde, Liverpool and Belfast on December 18. See W.D. 18-19/12/40. See D.O.R. 19/12/40 for list of vessels.

Enemy Report.

Following has been read.
EMERGENCY. 1 Capital ship (DEUTSCHLAND class)bearing 290 degs. 12 miles approx. course unknown: my position 288 LARK 60 (BERWICK, 0642/25) (43° 40' N. 23° 50' W. see 1026/25).

Course.

My 0642. Enemy's cours 300 degs. (BERWICK, 0655/25).

8-inch Cruiser.

My 0642 Enemy is 8 inch cruiser. (BERWICK, 0715/25).

Enemy disappeared in thick weather to westward on course 290°. Probability is that he has not sighted convoy. Am rejoining convoy. Enemy ship was one eight inch cruiser. (BERWICK, 0825/25).

CLEMATIS. In action. Convoy scattered.

Engaged unknown raider in position 043° 47' 024° (corrupt group) BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN pursuing. EMPIRE TROOPER damaged believed slightly. Convoy scattered by order of Commodore. Proceeding along track arriving destination dawn 27th visibility one mile. T.O.O. B.S.T. (CLEMATIS, 0930/25).

FURIOUS.

My position course speed 043° 15' North 024° 12' West 280° 21 knots. Will fly off 2 Skuas for search and will land Swordfish from ARGUS to arm with. Visibility 2 miles, low clouds. Wind 150° 35 knots. Request position of other British forces in area. (FURIOUS 0931/25 to Admty.)

Your 0931/25. No other British Forces other than those with W.S.5A are within 200 miles of your position. (D.O.D.(F) 1350/25 to FURIOUS)

BERWICK position.

BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, position course and speed 043° 27' N. 025° 30' West, 133 degrees, 20 knots. (BERWICK, 0945/25 to FURIOUS).

/ FORCE H. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.40.

Force H. — Force H. Raise steam with all despatch. (D.C., 1019/25 to S.O. Force H).

Position "Lark". — BERWICK's 0642. Position "LARK" is 43.40 N. 23.50 W. (D.C. 1026/25 to S. and A. Areas A and B.)

C.S.15. / Force K. — My 1026/25. Close enemy. (V.C.N.S. 1046/25 to C.S.15, S.O. Force K)

My 1046 NAIAD return to Scapa. (D.O.D.(H) 1733/25 to NAIAD).

Enemy sight convoy — My 0825. BONAVENTURE report enemy cruiser sighted convoy. (BERWICK, 1036/25, to Admty, and Force H). (Note. Sent to V.A.S. also passed to Ships and Authorities A & B, Submarines on patrol, North Atlantic Station, C.in C. South Atlantic for S.A. Station, C.in C. America & West Indies, and C.in C. Mediterranean).

Force H ordered to sea. — My 1026/25 and BERWICK's 0642/25. Proceed to sea. (V.C.N.S. 1036/25 to S.O. Force H).

BERWICK, casualties and damage. — Regret to report following casualties (list, 4 marines killed, 1 dangerously wounded). (BERWICK, 1100/25). Following damage sustained by BERWICK. X turret out of action. Hit below water line 72 to 81 stations starboard side and starboard side of after engine room bulging and wing compartment 193 to 207 flooded. Shell through forward boiler room from above upper deck. 3 one 4 inch gun out of action. Mid-ship funnel up-take holed. (BERWICK, 1120K/25).

Your 1120/25. Did you damage enemy? (D.O.D.(F) 1653/25 to BERWICK).

Enemy hit. — Your 1653. One hit certain abaft funnel. Possibly more. (BERWICK, 1506/25, to Admty.)

Force H. — RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 8 Destroyers ready by 1345. (S.O. Force H, 1109/25 to Admty.)

/ Force H. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.12.1940. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.40. (Contd.)

Force H. Force H. proceeding high speed towards position 037° North 016° West. Eight destroyers will be retained in company or follow according to weather. (S.O. Force H, 1401/25 to Admty.)

Gibraltar Departure 1400/25 S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FOXHOUND, FIREDRAKE, FORTUNE, DUNCAN, WISHART, HERO, HEREWARD, in accordance with Admiralty's 1038/25. (S.O.I., Gib., 1448/25 to Admty., etc.)

Position of Convoy. Are you in company with convoys. If so pass Admiralty's 1324 and 1403/25 to Cdre. of convoy and report position course and speed. (BERWICK, 1504/25, to FURIOUS, DUNEDIN).

Your 1324/25 and my 1401/25. Intend joining convoy. (S.O. Force H., 1514/25, to Admty.)

DUNEDIN, CITY OF CANTERBURY. When rejoining convoy met CITY OF CANTERBURY who was proceeding to convoy rendezvous noon/26th 160 degs. "LARK" 200 miles. Convoy has scattered. Am taking her to position 041° N. 019° W. My position course and speed are 042° 30' N. 023 degs. 25' W., 113° nine knots. (DUNEDIN, 1531N/25).

FURIOUS to rejoin convoy. Discontinue hunt. Rejoin convoy. (1 S.L. 1607/25, to FURIOUS)

Disposition of British Forces. BERWICK's 0642/25. British Forces in this area at noon B.S.T./25 are as follows:-
(A) In company with BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN, ARGUS, FURIOUS, and convoy W.S.5A
(B) C.S.15 in NAIAD 50° 50' N. 18° 40'W. course 220 dgs., 20 knts.
(C) Force K to South Westward of Azores closing enemy.
(D) CACHALOT approximate 40°N. 19° W. for U.K.
(E) TRIDENT patrolling in vicinity of Azores.
(F) DERBYSHIRE patrolling within 100 miles of 39° 20' N. 21° 40' W.
(G) Force H left Gibraltar at 1345.
(H) CATHAY and S.L.59 approximate 35° 20' N. 20° 30' W. course 354° 9 kts. (D.O.D. (F) 1619/25 to S. and A. in Areas A and B.)

Force K. My 1046/25. Join BERWICK with Convoy W.S.5A. (D.O.D.(F) 1654/25 to F.O. Force K).

/ Force H, ...

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A. and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.1940.
(Contd.)

Force H,
Force K,
"Excess"
W.S.5A.
Route.

My 1654/25 to F.O. Force K.
1. Force H is to rendezvous with BERWICK and escort W.S.5A until Force K joins the convoy.
2. Force K is then to escort W.S.5A to Freetown.
3. Force H with BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN and ARGUS are then to escort "EXCESS" to Gibraltar.
4. Operation "EXCESS" is to be postponed 24 hours by S.O. Force H if necessary.
5. BERWICK if fit for the passage, is then to return to U.K., if not she is to proceed to Gibraltar.
6. Route for W.S.5A after passing 37° N. 16° W. is through a position 31° N. 21° W. and thence through position 12° 45' N. 19° 30' W. and as routed in 0218/17. (D.O.D.(F) 1810/25 to F.O's Forces H and K)

Signals,
Force K

Cancel my 1837/24. As from 0001 G.M.T./26 messages for S.O. Force K, Force K, FORMIDABLE NORFOLK, BONAVENTURE, FURIOUS, ARGUS, DUNEDIN, BERWICK, C.S.15. and NAIAD are to be routed in normal manner, ships maintaining normal W/T watch according to station in which they actually are. Reserve Block Delivery Groups are no longer to be used for these ships and/or authorities. (D.S.D.1850/25 to C.-in-C's and F.O's)

DORSETSHIRE
to join Force K.

My 1910/25.
BERWICK reports X turret out of action during engagement with German 8" cruiser today 25/12.
My 2159/22, para. 2 is cancelled.
Request you will sail DORSETSHIRE as soon as practicable to join Force K.
(D.O.D.(F) 1920/25 to C.in C. S.A.).

KENYA.
S.L.39.

KENYA is to rendezvous with and escort S.L.39, which consists of 27 ships at present escorted by CATHAY.
S.L.39 and S.L.S. 39 due in position 053° 40' N. 015° 00' W. at 0900 G.M.T. 1st and 3rd Jan. 1941 routed through 036° 00' N. 020° 20' W. 050° 00', 022° 30', 052° 00' 020° 30', speed 8 and 7 knots.

Azores S/M.

TRIDENT left vicinity of Lands End 0200/19/12 to relieve CACHALOT on patrol near Azores.
Route for TRIDENT latitudes north and longitudes west 049° 50' 010° 00', 048° 45', 011° 30', 039° 45', 016° 50', 037° 20', 022° 25', thence to patrol.

/ CACHALOT to ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK. Action with Raider 25.12.1940.
(Contd.)

CACHALOT to support W.S.5A. Route for CACHALOT north and west of St. Miguel thence through following positions latitude north and longitude west 038° 25' 023° 25' 040° 20', 018° 00', 049° 10', 012° 55', diving by day north of 049° CACHALOT has orders to leave patrol by 24/12 and has orders to support convoy W.S.5A.
Information enemy 8-inch cruiser and W.S.5A was sent to you before sailing.
(C.in C. W.A. 1922/25 to F.O. 10 C.S.)

EMPIRE TROOPER, distress messages. Following received via Landsend Radio in M.N.C.R. Any British Man of War from Z S E L (no trace in W.H.)
Any British Merchant Vessel
44° north 24° 32' west, require assistance as soon as possible to stand by me immediately. 1500 G.M.T.
Admiral Plymouth from Z S E L
EMPIRE TROOPER send assistance to ? at once 43° 58'N. 20° 35' W "LARK" bearing 117 degs. 37 miles. 1715 G.M.T.
Any British Man of War from Z S E L
Any British M.V.
CYCLAMEN standing by, his wireless transmitter out of action. 1648 G.M.T.
Admiral Plymouth from Z S E L
EMPIRE TROOPER amend longitude to read 24° 15' W. my 1715 G.M.T. T.O.R. 1851.
(C.in C. W.A. 2142/25 to Admty.)

BONAVENTURE My position 041° 57' N. 023° 16' W. Proceeding to assistance of EMPIRE TROOPER. (BONAVENTURE, 1930/25).

Ship believed to be EMPIRE TROOPER requiring immediate assistance position at 1751 G.M.T. 43° 58' N. 24° 15' W. She reported CYCLAMEN with W/T out of action standing by at 1648 G.M.T.
(C.in C. W.A., 2155/25 to BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, FURIOUS, ARGUS, DUNEDIN, GERANIUM, JONQUIL.

BERWICK, position. Admiralty 1810 (not to BONAVENTURE)
My position noon 26/12 will be 039° 08' N. 021° 38' W. Am attempting to collect convoy who scattered on attack and were given this rendezvous by Commodore of convoy at 1540/24 since when it is improbable that the majority have received other orders.
(BERWICK, 2045Z/25 to S.O's Force H and K, F.O.C.N.A.)

/ VELOX, VIDETTE .....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.40.

VELOX, VIDETTE. Admty. 1810/25. VELOX and VIDETTE sail as in (corrupt group) 1640/25.
If not required request you will order them to return to Gibraltar and inform me. (F.O.C.N.A. 2342/25 to S.O. Force H).

Situation of Convoy. Information now available in Admiralty indicates that convoy has scatterd.
Part of the convoy may be making for position 41° N. 19 W. ordered in my 1403/25. Another portion probably the larger may be making for position 180 dgs. "LARK" 280 miles, which is the convoy rendezvous ordered by Commodore for noon 26/12.
2. M.T. Ships for "EXCESS" may be proceeding direct to Gibraltar.
3. S.O. Force H is to take charge at the moment he considers appropriate.
4. Secret positions given to ships in convoy are:
43° 40' N. 23° 50' W. LARK.
34° 30' N. 26° 00' W. PANSY.
34° 30' N. 14° 30' W. ROBIN.
5. Position "LARK" has probably been compromised. (V.C.N.S. 2344/25 to S.O. Force H, BERWICK)

Summary of Escorts. At about 0930 B.S.T. 26/12 BERWICK, BONAVENTURE & DUNEDIN escorting military convoy W.S.5A fought a short action with enemy 8" cruiser in position 43° 20' N. 24° 20' W.
BERWICK & BONAVENTURE engaged and drove off enemy to Westward. Enemy was hit once for certain abaft funnel and probably more. BERWICK had 'X' turret put out of action.
Enemy also caused some damage to EMPIRE TROOPER who is now in company with CYCLAMEN and BONAVENTURE.
(D.D.O.D.(H) 0130/26 to Ships and Authorities.)

BONAVENTURE, lost touch. BERWICK's 0642. Have lost touch with enemy. Last seen at 0956Z in position 43.36 N., 25.12. W., steering 290°. Visibility poor. Am rejoining convoy. (BONAVENTURE, 1120/25 to Admty.)

W.S.5A position. Position course and speed of W.S.5A, 0642/25, 044° 05' N. 025° 05' W. 163 deg., 11 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1130/25, to FORMIDABLE NORFOLK).

BERWICK's position. BERWICK's 0642. Mean of D.R. of FURIOUS and ARGUS made position of BERWICK 043° 20' N. 024° 20' W. at 0842 G.M.T. at which time she was seen to open fire.

/ My position .....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.1940.
(Contd.)

BERWICK's position. (contd.)

My position course and speed are 043° 20' N. 024° 50' W. 280° 18, ARGUS only now in company. Visibility half a mile. (FURIOUS, 1130Z/25, to Admty., etc.)

S/M CACHALOT to support convoy.

BERWICK, escorting convoy W.S.5A Southbound, sighted hostile 8" cruiser 0700/25 in position 44° N. 25° W. Steer to support convoy having regard to state of fuel. Enemy U Boats probably in vicinity of convoy. (V.A.S. 1138/25 to CACHALOT).

NAIAD position.

Your 1046/25. NAIAD's position at 1200 B.S.T. 060° 50' North 018° 40' W. 220 degrees, 20 knots. Fuel remaining for 1500 miles at 20 knots.
(F.O. 15 C.S. 1205/25 to Admty.)

There are indications of further U/B's on convoy route to eastward of Azores.
(D.D.I.C. 1208/25 to BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN, FURIOUS, ARGUS).

FURIOUS, ARGUS, position.

My position course and speed are 043° 19' 30" N., 025° 11' W. 290° 18. Am flying off reconnaissance now. ARGUS only in company. Intend to continue hunt.
(FURIOUS, 1224/25, to BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, Force K, and Admty.)

Enemy Transmission.

Enemy unit transmitting on 19780 K/cs at 1214 B.S.T. probably unit reported in your 0642/25.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/25 to BERWICK).

REPULSE and NIGERIA to support H.X.97 S.C.16.

BERWICK's 0642/25, 0650/25, and 0715/25 and Admiralty's 1026/25. Convoy H.X.97 and S.C.16 position course and speed at 0900/25 were 053° 40' North 037° 50' West 044 degrees, 8 knots, and 063° 00' North 02° 00' West, 070 degrees, 6½ knots respectively.
REPULSE with NIGERIA screened by four destroyers is to proceed to give protection to both convoys.
Destroyers are to part company in 025° West and return to Scapa.
(C.in C. H.F., 1308/25 to REPULSE, R.A. (D) H.F.).

/ Convoy to steer for Gibraltar. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.

Convoy to steer for Gibraltar.

Convoy and escorts steer for Gibraltar.
Further signal follows.
(D.O.D.(F) 1324/25 to BERWICK).

My 1324/25. Adjust route of W.S.5A to pass through position 41°N., 19° W. and position 37° N. 16° W.
(V.C.N.S. 1403/25 to BERWICK).

FURIOUS, flying abandoned.

Your 1350. Have had to abandon flying operations owing to weather. Have 2 swordfish from ARGUS on board.
My course and speed are 043° 10' 025° 11', 115 degs, 17, to rejoin convoy.
(FURIOUS, 1345/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration".

Your 1849/24 (corrupt group) Force 'H' is at sea. No forces available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1346/25 to Admty).

Foreign Legion Movement

N.C.S.O. Duala 1616/24. I am remaining anchored off Base my self with CAP DER PALMES in company. TOUAREG expected p.m. 26/12 when convoy will sail. Intend (route). I understand engine defect will place CAPO OLMO out of action about a month.
(DELHI, 1841/25 to C. in C. S.A.

North Atlantic.

VINDICTIVE.
ISIS.
NORFOLK.
FORMIDABLE.
NORFOLK.

Departure 1000/25 VINDICTIVE, ISIS, ENCOUNTER to rendezvous with FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK in position 015° 00'N. 027° 00'W at 0900 zone + 1 30/12 thence to Freetown. Route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1000/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

W.S.5A.

My 1330/24 HERO, HEREWARD, FIREDRAKE will be detached by S.O. Force H. and VELOX, VIDDETTE will be sailed from Gibraltar to make rendezvous. FIREDRAKE to be detached and ordered to Gibraltar immediately after passing Europa Point. Pass through position 036° 00'N 010° 00'W on passage to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1642/25 to ARGUS).

Daily Summary operations.

1 routine Patrol. 1 presumably friendly French aircraft approached Rock in poor visibility at low altitude. Was shot at until approaches to aerodrome to land. For violation of Spanish territory was shot down into sea by Spanish. No trace.
(200 Group, 1700/25 to Air Min).

A/C Shot Down.

Situation Report. At 1500 hours 25/12 Potez or Bloch type aircraft flying over Gibraltar without previous notice was shot at by our own and Spanish A.A. Guns and crashed into sea approx. quarter mile east of neutral ground. A boat was sent out but no sign of survivors.
(Governor Gib. 2050/25 to W.O.).

/TRIUMPH.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.12.40. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (continued).

TRIUMPH. Your 1720/24 (concerning TRIUMPH's proceeding to Malta) Yes. 1858/25 D.O.D. (F).

KINGSTON JACINTH
KINGSTON TURQUOISE
KINGSTON TOPAZ
SCOTTISH. Intend sailing KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE to U.K. in H.G. 49 29/12 and KINGSTON TOPAZ either to overtake H.G. 49 or in H.G. 50 11/1/41. Intend that Commander Brooks of KINGSTON JACINTH should exchange appointment with Lieutenant Commander Ayre of SCOTTISH in view of former's particular experience. (F.O.C.N.A. 1902/25 to F.O.C.N.P.).

South Atlantic.

QUEEN ADELAIDE. Overdue shipping my 0945/21 QUEEN ADELAIDE arrived Capetown. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1035/25).

LLANDAFF.
HOPECROWN.
JCAYBANK. Overdue shipping LLANDAFF HOPECROWN due Capetown 20/12 JCAYBANK due Capetown 21/12 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1105/25).

CORNWALL.
DEVONSHIRE. CORNWALL to complete with fuel at Durban then proceed Simonstown. DEVONSHIRE after arrival Simonstown remain there until further orders. (C. in C. S.A. 1345n/25 to CORNWALL DEVONSHIRE).

CHARLES PRATT. Overdue shipping. Panamanian CHARLES PRATT Aruba departure 6/12 due Freetown 21/12 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1804/25) (Cancelled see 1747/26 U-Boat Campaign).

SAMNANGER. Overdue shipping. SAMNANGER Oban departure 27/11 due 21/12. 1806/25.

DORSETSHIRE.
NEPTUNE. DORSETSHIRE to return to Freetown with all despatch to arrive 0600/27. NEPTUNE return Freetown as convenient. 2253N/25.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N. Class Destroyers.

I am most concerned at decision communicated in Admty. 1528/23 (see under Policy Home Commands). I am well aware of difficulties of situation in home waters in respect to destroyers and I have hitherto refrained from representing situation in Mediterranean in knowledge that reinforcements would reach me early in New Year and I hoped they would alleviate a situation which may shortly become critical. It does not seem to be realized destroyers commitments in Mediterranean have multiplied since entry of Greece into war. The troops in Libya necessitate a division being allocated to nothing else but maintenance and defence line supply. This commitment is likely to increase. Mounting machinery defects, and they spend too little time in harbour for these to be made good or even routine maintenance to be undertaken. The fact that apart from destroyers out of action due to machinery break-down on (corrupt groups), it has not been possible to spare a destroyer to undergo refit since 11/8/40, speaks for itself. In light of these facts I earnestly hope decision communicated in Admty. 1538/23 may be reconsidered. (C. in C. Med 1105z/25 to Admty).

Air Report.

Tobruk.

Sollum.

Operational Summary No. 198 up to 1200 hrs. 25/12. Egypt. Night 23/24 Dec. Reconnaissances of Bardia and Tobruk by Hurricane and Lysander reported no movements. 20 S.79's escorted by 4 CR.42's bombed Sollum hitting jetty and one lighter. Total of 40 army personnel killed and injured. No change in military situation Bardia.

Valona.

Greece. Day 24/12. 7 Blenheims attacked Valona aerodrome from 1800 feet Bombs burst among dispersed aircraft and aerodrome buildings causing clouds of black smoke from latter.

Cruiser attacked.

After dropping bombs Blenheims machine gunned aerodrome and a cruiser in the harbour latter particularly heavily. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1143/25 to Air Min).

/W.S.5A.....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

W.S. 5A.

Your 1343/23. (a) Personnel for Malta. (details) CLAN MACDONALD CLAN CUMMING EMPIRE SONG NORTHERN PRINCE
(b) Confirmed, except for Naval personnel referred to in Admiralty 2125/21. (c) Confirmed.
(d) Confirmed. NORTHERN PRINCE also has 10 tons of ammunition for Suda Bay.
(e) With the exception of deck cargo of cased aircraft all four ships are loaded for first discharge in Greece.
(D.O.D.(F) 1315/25 to C. in C. Med).

From Admiral Sakellarion (Christmas Greetings).
(N.A. Athens 1332/25 to Admty).

Malta Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 25/12. All times G.M.T. No air operations undertaken. Clouds 10/10 1,500 feet and rain. No enemy activity over Malta today. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1700/25 to Air Min).

REGENT R. of P.

REGENT preliminary report. Nothing sighted in area G. 21 to 23/12. Sighted four convoys escorted by T.B.D. in area between 014 degs. East and 015 degs. East south of 033 degs. North. All ships empty. Keeping 15 to 20 miles north of coast and steering west. Indications are that RORQUAL's minefields are being avoided. Three unsuccessful long range attacks. Anti-submarine measures taken after last attack.
(V.A. Malta 1917/25 to C. in C. Med).

East Indies.

MOONSTONE.

Bombay arrival 0430Z/25 Trawler MOONSTONE.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 0431/25).

Small craft Kenya.

Your 2037/26/9 paragraph 3 (i) 3 motor boats taken up for Kenya Coastal Patrol. Fourth is available for South Africa for purchase at 2500 pounds which is considered fair and reasonable. Intend to complete purchase and base this boat on Dar-es-Salaam. Governor Tanganyika concurs in principle and can probably provide crew. (ii. My 1834/13/9. Can decision now be given whether maintenance cost of this patrol is an Imperial or Colonial Government liability. (C. in C. E.I. 06042/25 to Adty)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (continued).

W.S. 4B. — Departure 25/12 0700z CARLISLE and KIMBERLEY 0745z SOUTHAMPTON all to join W.S. 4B. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0746/25).

Kishmayu. — My 1006/23. Air photographs show there are indications that one ship has been considerably damaged between funnel and bridge on starboard side above water line but with no signs of listing. As description of damaged ship does not appear to correspond with YAMAYURI MARU it is not certain which the ship is. There has been considerable movement within anchorage since 6/12. Small lighters are shown astern several ships. (C. in C. E.I. 1000Z/25 to Admty).

KANIMBLA. — N.O.i/c Mauritius 0728/23 On completion of fuelling KANIMBLA to proceed Durban, adjusting speed to arrive p.m. 31/12. (C. in C. E.I. 1004Z/25).

Kenya Air Report. — Operational Summary No. 198 to 1200 hours 25/12. Para 4 Kenya. Day 24/12. S.A.A.F. reconnoitred Furroly and Gorai. Bombs dropped at Gorai on fort and camouflaged area believed petrol dump. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1146/25 to Air Min).

B.N.11 — Convoy B.N. 11 arrived Suez 25/12 less Panamanian ship URANIA and GREY COUNTY (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1032/25).

B.S. 11½ — Sailing telegram 1500 G.M.T. /25. Escort KINGSTON. Ships ORION, BATORY, SUFFOLK, STRATHEDEN, STRATHMORE, (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 16072/25).

Air Report Sudan. — A. 886 25/12 Ops Summary No. 198 up to 1200 hours 25/12. Para 3. Sudan. Reconnaissance of Dahlak Archipelago by 2 Blenheims reported 2 merchantsships moored off north point Dahlak Island and landing ground on south point Naheleg Island. Small enemy supply ship between Naheleg and Norah Island unsuccessfull bombed. All aircraft returned safely from operations 24/12. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1147/25 to Air Min.).

/Somali.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (continued).

Somali Coast Recco.

A.B.V. SAGITTA has completed a reconnaissance of Somali Coast form Bandar Kassim to Heis, in connection with Military Mission G (R). At Heis dhows were found also some stores on beach. A few rounds were fired at stores and house close by. Two naval casualties from machine gun fired at 1500 yards not serious.
(C. in C. E.I. 1440/25 to Admty).

Air Report Aden.

Daily Intelligence Summary Number 196 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 25/12. 4 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter Escorts 3 for convoy BS 11 and 1 for convoy WS4B. 2 Blenheims 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. 5 Gladiators standing fighter patrol over Aden 0350 to 0750 G.M.T. No casualties.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1607/25 to Air Min).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Reference 1927/18A. Following are replies to para's indicated.
(C. in C. E.I. 09582/25 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

H.X. Convoy and SEVERN.

Admty 1752/20. Intend SEVERN shall be lent Seaborne for period she is based on Halifax as from date of arrival. She will have full outfit of torpedoes and will carry as much spare gear as practicable. Not intended to send any further spare personnel, torpedoes or gear for the present.
(V.A.S. 0014/25 to F.O.C. 35d B.S.).

BAYANO.

My 1445/20 Sailing delayed on account of fruit loading difficulties. BAYANO sailed 23/12.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1101/25).

/COLUMBIA.....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

COLUMBIA,
ST. FRANCIS.

Halifax arrival 25/12 COLUMBIA.
1215/25.

VOLTAIRE.

If junction has not been made B.H.X. 98 is to conform to movements of H.X. 98 which has been ordered to turn round and may be directed to proceed to wait at Halifax or Concepcion Bay Newfoundland.
(C. in C. A. & W.I. 1632/25 to VOLTAIRE).

Canadian
Destroyers.

Your 1257/24. Am deeply grateful.
A. Most acceptable Xmas gift.
(1st Sea Lord 2225/25 to C.N.S. Canada).

Australia & New Zealand.

Nauru,
raider attack.

My 1835Z/24 Hopkins considers NAURU in imminent danger of attack and NAURU W/T operator disloyal. Raiders used big lagoon Marshall Island for transferring fuel, guesses base in Ellice Islands. Reasons for these assumptions by Hopkins are being ascertained. Three raiders in close company spread to maximum visibility in day time and close in at night.
(A.C.N.B. 1241/25 to Admty).

Raider
Nauru,
Publicity.

My 1835Z/24 propose publicity release of rescue story on following lines.
(d)(Text of proposed statement).
(A.C.N.B. 1243Z/25 to Admty).

Your 1835/24. Details of raiders and their cruises are urgently required. Request arrangements may be made for early interrogation of survivors by a naval officer.
(D.D.I.C. 1822/25 to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LA PLATA.
HEINRICH ARP.

German ships LA PLATA and HEINRICH ARP left Bilbao for unknown destination at approximately noon 24/12. (D.D.I.C. 0821/25 to F.O.C.N.A). (V.A.S. 1223/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EVERLEIGH. (British 5222 tons) 58° 36' N., 21° 58'W. gunned by S/M course N. 1212/25 (Valentia Radio 1214/25).
SSSS 58° 47'N. 21° 08' W. chased by S/M. (Portishead Radio 1305/25).
58° 27'N. 21° 00' W. still chased and gunned by S/M 1430/25. (Valentia Radio 1435/25).
Following read SSSS 59° 20' N, 21° 20' W. Still chased by S/M (Wick Radio 1550/25).
Following read SSSS 59° 36'N., 21° 58 W. gunned by S/M 1212/25 (Plymouth W/T recd. 1319/25).
Your 1118/25, your 1908/21 received and (corrupt group) has left convoy returning to Halifax through possible position of EVERLEIGH. (RANPURA 1629/25 to C.in C. W.A.)

ARACATARA (torpedoed 29/11). Following from St. John New Brunswick (begins) s.s. French DJURDJURA arrived with 15 survivors British ARACATARA torpedoed 29/11 in 057° 08'N. 020° 50'W. Reported lost and survivors have not had an opportunity of informing relative until now. Capt's boat was only one saved. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1359/25 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

Enemy Unit. By D/F on 7920 k/cs at 1027 B.S.T. German U-Boat in vicinity of convoy W.S.5A. (D.D.I.C. 1116/25)

My 1116/25. This was possibly a surface unit. (D.D.I.C. 1841/25).

1027. D/F. German U-boat near W.S.5A. (C.in C. W.A. 1116/25).

1240. AQUAMARINE reported S/M in 062° 27' N, 015° 21'W. (A.C.O.S. 1407/25).

1208. Indications of further U/B's on convoy route to eastward of Azores (D.D.I.C. 1208/25) (See also Convoy and Raider).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

Italian.
1 in Madeira area
1 in Canaries area.
2 near or to eastward of the Azores.
1 arriving Gironde this afternoon from south-southwesterly direction.
1 about 45° 20'N. 5° - 6° W. bound for Gironde.
4 between southern part of N.W. Approaches and Bordeaux.

/ German. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U Boat dispositions. (Contd.)

German.
1 to south westward of Freetown.
1 in vicinity of 43°N. 25° W.
1 about 48° N., 8° W. bound for Lorient.
1 between 57° N. and 59° N. 17° W. and 20° W.
3 in area 57° N. to 60° N. near 20° W.
1 N.E. of Muckle Flugga homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1325/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

In case the Raiding Cruiser now in the Atlantic should try to return to Germany by way of Denmark Strait, C.S.18 in MANCHESTER has been ordered to proceed with NIGERIA to support LETITIA and CHITRAL in the Strait.

British Air Activity.

Special Air Patrols were flown early this morning to the Eastward and Westward of the Faroe Islands; an Air Patrol is now to be flown daily before noon to search the area North of the Shetlands; and the usual Routine Patrols were all flown today. Air escort was provided during today for 16 Convoys.

Enemy Air Activity.

A long-range F.W. Aircraft flew due west today from Bordeaux to as far as 20° W, which is believed to be the most westerly position yet reached by enemy A/C from that port. Enemy A/C made only coastal flights off our South and S.W. coasts.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.
FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider and Convoy W.3.5.A.

During 26/12 units of the escort of Convoy W.3.5.A. searched for the troopships, which had scattered on the appearance of the 8-inch gun cruiser attacked by the BERWICK on 25/12. Force H and Force K were making for the Convoy. Senior Officer Force K in FORMIDABLE with NORFOLK reported his position at 0800 N as 40.05N 23.05W and that he intended trying to collect the convoy at the Commodore's noon, 26th R/V (viz. 39° 8'N., 21° 38'W) and escort to 37° N., 16° W. The visibility was poor, (3 miles).

DERBYSHIRE (A.M.C. South Atlantic) was ordered by S.O.Force H at 0801 to proceed to the assistance of EMPIRE TROOPER, believed damaged in 43.28'N., 24.16W., at 1751Z/25. CYCLAMEN with W/T out of actior had been reported standing by her at 1648Z/25. At 1046/26, BONAVENTURE then in 41.57 N., 23.16W., reported she also was proceeding to assist EMPIRE TROOPER.

At 1150/26. S.O.Force K reported that his position at 1200 N., was 39.16 N., 22.14 W. Visibility had improved to one mile. None of the Convoy had then been met, and flying was impracticable.

At 1143/26. KENYA which had left Plymouth at 2050/25 to meet and escort Convoy S.L.59 reported an aircraft, which became corrupted into a ship of the DEUTSCHLAND class in 47° N., 11° W. As it seemed probable that the Convoy was proceeding to a French port, Admiralty requested C.in C. Western Approaches to arrange a destroyer night attack, but this was subsequently cancelled.

At 1342, Admiralty in response to a request from S.O.Force H, instructed ships of W.3.5.A. by broadcast to steer for position 334 degrees "ROBIN" 166 miles. (This is the Convoy R/V in 39° 8'N., 21° 38'W.)

At 1245Z/26, BONAVENTURE intercepted the German S.S. BADEN (which left Teneriffe on the night of 15/16/12)in 44 N., 25.07 W., (about 60 miles N.W. of position where BERWICK met the raider). BADEN was set on fire and abandoned by her crew, and BONAVENTURE finished her off with a torpedo.

/At

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Raider and Convoy W.S.5.A. (Contd.)

At 1721, S.O.Force H ordered the force searching to report at 2200 the number of merchant ships in company, and received the following replies:-
FURIOUS and ARGUS, 40.07N., 18.16W.
No Merchant Ships.
BERWICK. No merchant ships.
Force K NORTHERN PRINCE.
CLAN MACDONALD.
EMPIRE SONG.
BONAVENTURE. 43.20N., 22.38W.
No merchant ships, making with EMPIRE TROOPER, a total of 4 ships reported.

BERWICK reported at 2302Z/26 that she considered it necessary to proceed to Gibraltar to make good underwater damage and refuel, having lost 300 tons due to punctured tank.

Vichy French.

MARON (ocean boarding vessel) intercepted t e trawler JOSEPH DUHAMEL in 34.30N., 15.22W from Port Saint Pierre for Casablanca with a cargo of fish and sent her into Gibraltar under armed guard.

South Atlantic.

It has been approved to carry out repairs to CARNARVON CASTLE at Simonstown.
The Free French Foreign Legion left Cameroons River this evening, in CAP DES PALMES and TOUAREG, escorted by DELHI.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Temporary repairs to the COVENTRY (torpedoed 13/12) have been completed at Alexandria and it is intended she shall proceed to Malta at the end of the month for permanent repairs.

China.

Permission will probably be given in the next few days (C.in C. China reports) to resume sailing between Indo-China and Hong Kong and Singapore.

Australia.

The raider TEIYO MARU (ex KULMERLAND) is reported short of fuel and is thought to be proceeding to Japan to replenish. She is said to have Japanese markings and to carry a seaplane.

It is reported from Emirau Island (Bismarck Archipelago) that survivors landed there are from 10 ships sunk or captured by enemy raiders, three of which are known to have been operating.

At 1940Z/26. Nauru Island 00.15S., 167.00 E., off which shipping was attacked on 8/12, was heavily shelled by an enemy raider. Much damage was done to the jetties and oil storage tanks, but the W/T station and power station are intact. Private houses were not fired on. It was at first reported that the raider had Japanese markings, but a later report from the Commonwealth Naval Board stated that she flew the Nazi star at the gaff.

MOST SECRET.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M. A/S. B's. Proposed allotment. — Admiralty 1753/8. M A/S Bs 60 and 52 will be ready for service in one week. Intend allotting both boats to Fowey as operational base. Remainder of 4th M A/S B Flotilla completes hull strengthening and January. Four more boats will then be allotted to Fowey and three to Portland with senior officer of Flotilla at Portland. M A/S Bs 60 and 52 can then be taken in hand for Hull strengthening. (R.A.C.F. 1013/26 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 1130/26 (D.C.1130/26.) At 2330/26 (D.C. 0002/27.)

Movements.

AURORA. — E.T.A. Scapa 1900/26. (N.O.I.C. Oban 0600/26) Arrived Scapa 1956/26.(A.C.O.S. 2045/26.)

KELLY. — Arrived Scapa 0727. (A.C.O.S. 0820/26.)

KELVIN. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0908/26.) Sailed to rejoin KENT. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1352/26.)

WITCH. — My 1359/25. Sailed. E.T.A. Liverpool 1900 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1103/26.)

VENOMOUS. — Your 0852/26. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1110/26.)

LEAMINGTON) CHURCHILL) — Ordered to R/V with WOLFE and CILICIA at 0900/28 for inward Escort to Minches. Thence to Scapa. (F.O.C.N.F. 1118/26 to WOLFE.)

BIRMINGHAM. — Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1120/26.)

4 M/V's. — Intend sail 4 M/V's escorted by A/S Trawlers LORD EGERTON and RUBY from Needles at 1715/26. E.T.A. Dartmouth 0815/27. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1227/26.)

MOST SECRET.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

COTSWOLD — Arrived 1256. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1302/26.)

VANSITTART. — Sailed 1000 E.T.A. 0930/27. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1347/26 and 1556/26.) Arrive Rame Head at 1030/27.(C. in C. W.A.1754/26 to VANSITTART.)

LETITIA. — Arrived and sailed for Patrol 1630 G.M.T. (F.O. Iceland 1425/26.)

CILICIA. — Arrived 1300 G.M.T. (F.O. Iceland 1425/26.)

HONNINGSVAAG. — Returned to Reykjavik. (F.O. Iceland 1425/26.)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines today. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/26.)

KENT. KIPLING KELVIN. — Proceed to Milford Haven forthwith. KIPLING to proceed with all despatch and complete with fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 1554/26 to KENT, KIPLING, KELVIN.)

ROXBOROUGH. RIPLEY. — Sailed. E.T.A. Rame Head 1630/27. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1600/26.)

QUORN. HOLDERNESS. — Sailed 1657. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1707/26.)

DOUGLAS. KEPPEL. — Arrived Scapa 1644. (A.C.O.S. 1740/26.)

MAURITIUS. — Your 1205/26. E.T.A. Duncansby Head 0930/28. (MAURITIUS 1948/26 to R.A.D.H.F.)

VERSATILE. — Your 2053. Lights arranged. Do not arrive Nore Light Vessel before 1430. (C. in C. Nore 2205/26 to VERSATILE.)

NIGERIA. — R/V with MANCHESTER at 1200/28 in 63° 50' N. 24° 40' W. If not met by 1300 proceed to Reykjavik and fuel. (F.O.C. 18th.C.S. 2256/26 to NIGERIA.)

MANCHESTER. — Sailed from Scapa (A.C.O.S. 2336/26.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation RUBBLE. — Particulars.(A.C.N.S. H. 1056/26). See Operations Volume.

Ostend to Hook. — Weather permitting M.T.B's to operate tonight as in my 1128/24. (C. in C. Nore 1126/26.)

Operation P.V.1. — To be carried out tonight between 2200 and 0200 by one A/C carrying Flares only. Patrol O to keep to Northward of No. 5 Buoy during this period.(C. in C. Nore 1234/26.) My 1234. Three M.Ls will leave Yarmouth at 1600 to-day arriving 5 miles East of No. 5. buoy at 1800. M.Ls. will patrol 5 miles East of Q.Z.S. 30 between latitudes of Aldeburgh Light Float and No. 5. buoy and will show minor war vessels recognition signals if in touch with enemy in vicinity of friendly warships or convoy.(C. in C. Nore 1440/26 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Operation N.C. — M.T.B's 69 and 70 with Trawlers ALEXANDRITE and BOTANIC will operate from 2100/26 till 0045/27 between No. 1 Buoy and (?) Buoy on anti-minelaying Operation NC. (V.A. Dover 1730/26 to Adty.)

Raider Patrol in Denmark Strait. — Admiralty 0130/26. Enemy Cruiser may attempt to return to Germany. Movements of enemy A/C indicate that passage may be made through Denmark Strait.

2. Patrol Lines in Denmark Strait are occupied as follows:-
N.P. 41. LETITIA. N.P.42 CHITRAL.

3. O.S.18 in MANCHESTER and NIGERIA are to proceed to R/V as ordered by C.S.18 and then to operate in support of LETITIA and CHITRAL with the object of intercepting the enemy should he attempt the passage of the Denmark Strait.

4. Fuel is available from the Oiler ROSEWOOD at Reykjavik.

5. My 1203/25 and Admiralty 1533/25 have been passed to C.S.18.(C. in C. H.F. 2017/26. to C.S. 18.)

MOST SECRET.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation RUBBLE.

A break out by certain Norwegian ships fro the Skaggerak is being contemplated.

2. Some or all of the following ships wil take part:-
ELIZABETH BAAKE 5450 tons. JOHN BAAKE 4718 tons, TAI SHAN (?) TAAISHAN 6962 tons, TAUR 4767 tons, RANJA (Tanker) 6355 tons.
Total Tonnage 28, 252.

3. Ships if successful in escaping have be instructed to keep to the deepest water unti reaching meridian of 06° E., thence by position ZZ 58° 45' N., 03° 30'E to Kirkwall

4. Ships will be ready to sail p.m./30.

5. As the success of the operation must depend on snatching advantage of suitable weather conditions it is probable that these ships will sail without the Admiralty being informed.

6. After passing position ZZ ships will fly Norwegian ensigns and white flags with letter G.B. They will also display self evident aircraft recognition marks in large white letters on bridge tops as follows:-

ELIZABETH BAAKE E.B.
JOHN BAAKE J B
TAAISHAN T S
TAURUS T R
RANJA R F.

7. This operation will be known by code word RUBBLE.
(A.C.N.S. H 1056/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.12.1940. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

L. 26. Exercising from 1130 to 1430 with Rosyth Escort Force in Areas E and F to Northward of 56° 10' N. (C.in C. Rosyth 0922/26).

L. 23. In Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1157/26).

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1610/26).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/27. (V.A.S. 1722/26).

TUNA. To return to Base after dark 29/12. Route to meet Escort 270° Trevose Head 5 miles at 0845/1. (S.2. 1821/26 to TUNA).

TALISMAN } TIGRIS } TALISMAN estimated off Wolf Rock 1100/28. Route thence for Bay of Biscay South Zone. TIGRIS keep in Eastern Sector from 2359/28 until 0800/31. (S.2. 1823/26). Sailed TALISMAN escorted by SURPRISE as by S.2 1238/24 and 1523/26. (F.O. Greenock 1903/26).

MINERVE. Sailed 1628/26 with STELLA POLARIS. E.T.A. Holy Lock 1500/28 (C.in C. W.A. 2102/26).

CACHALOT. Due Wolf Rock 0857/30. (CACHALOT 2331/26)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Special Patrols for today (1) Sunderland to leave Sullom Voe. 0800 to 64° 35' N. 15° W. and return. (2) Hudson leave Wick at dawn to make one circuit of area 60° 30' N. 2° W. to 61° 40' N. 6° 30' W., to 62° 15' N. 6° 30' W. to 61° 5' N. 2° W. (C.in C. Rosyth 0156/26.).
2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0845 for Flamborough and return. (C.in C. Rosyth 0722/26).
Patrols ordered today: BERT, TROST, STAB., S.9., SA.1A., SA.2., and S.A.3, in addition to MUGGY and those in my 0156/26 (C.in C. Rosyth 0728/26).

HOME COMMANDS.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Patrols.

British Air Activity.

Patrol VIKING will not be flown today as area is covered by SA.1A. (C. in C. Rosyth 1128/26.)

Following Patrol UNST will be flown daily before Noon by Walrus A/C from Sullom Voe: 60° 50' N. 1° 17' W., 62° 3'N. 1° 49'W., 61° 58' N. 2° 9'W 60° 54'N. 0° 46'W. (C. in C. Rosyth 1756/26.)

Search for Unidentified Ship.

Sunderlands on Patrol NUGGY and on Shetlands to 64° 35'N. Patrols are being diverted to position of Ship reported in NORTHERN GIFT 0740/26. (C. in C. Rosyth 1818/26 to F.O. 1st. B.C.S.)
2 Sunderlands leave Sullom Voe. about 0930/27 to carry out parallel Track, Search of area between 65° 40' N, 64° N., 3° W., and 4° W to search for Ship. (C. in C. Rosyth 1826/26.)

Bordeaux

217 Sqdn., to attack tonight S/M's in No. 1. Basin at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Power Station and Dockyard at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1245/26 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Lorient.

53 and 59 Sqdns., to attack tonight S/M's and Naval Dockyards at Lorient (H.Q.C.C. 1246/26 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Enemy Air Activity

Faroe Islands.

Enemy A/C flew low across Stroms. AM/24 and fired on illagers at Hoyvik with cannon. One civilian slightly wounded. (O.C. Troops, Faroe Islands 1340/26 to War Office.)

Mining.

Operation. O.1.2.

My 1348/4 and 1836/23. Operation will be carried out on night of 29/12. (C. in C. W.A. 1134/26 to ADVENTURE.)

Liverpool.

Precautions for Ships arriving. (C. in C. W.A. 1236/26.) (C. in C. W.A. 1701/26, to KENT.

MOST SECRET.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Clearance of Minefield.

Approximately three quarters of the minefield south of Coninbeg light vessel has now been cleared. 80 mines cut and 11 exploded to date. Anticipated 18 hours sweeping should complete clearance and subsequent high percentage searches. (H/S. 11. 1420/26 to Adty.)

MERCURY.

(Peddle Minesweeper) Sunk by own Mine at 2116/26.
See Casualties.

Aberdeen Area.
War Channel, searches.

Weather permitting:-
Intend sailing 18th M/S Group. Search War Channel W. Side to Scurdy Ness 090° 10', E.T.A. 0359/26, then return searching ahead of H M 47 as far as Buchan Ness 090° 6'. E.T.A. 0800/27. 19th M/S Group H/V Buchan Ness 090° 6' 0700/27. Search ahead of H M 47 as far as Kinnaird Head 000° 6' thence 000° 8' to lat. 57°55' N. E.T.A. 1400/27/12, then return searching ahead of W M 59 as far as Buchan Ness 090° 6' E.T.A. 0800/27/12.
(N.O.IC. Aberdeen 1833/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Plymouth.

Since my 1951/26. One Mine detonated at 1130/25 in 225° Rame Head 4 miles, close to M.A/S.B. 30.(C. in C. W.A. 1641/26.)

M.A.C.S.
(H/S Attendant Craft.

Was ordered to proceed at 0900/26 via Swept channels speed 15 knots with the Admiralty Salvage Officer on board to the wreck of s.s STADT MAASTRICHT.
She was last seen by M/S trawler STELLA RIGEL proceeding from the Rough buoy to South Shipwash buoy. One heavy under water explosion was reported by two A/P vessels at 1800 in the vicinity of the N E Gunfleet.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1659/26 to C. in C. Nore. Regret considered lost with all hands. 2 Officers including Salvage Officer and 7 Ratings lost. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1156/27 to C. in C. Nore.)

YSTROOM.

(Dutch,400 Tons.) Sunk by Mine at about 1530/25 in about 55° 37' N. 5° 25' W. No casualties. Mine probably acoustic. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1709/26.)

MOST SECRET.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation N.C. — See Operations.

Londonderry Area. — Operation completed. (5th M/S Flotilla 1901/26 to Adty.)

LADY CONNAUGHT. — (British, 2284 Tons) Explosion 10 miles N.W. of Bar. Requires immediate help. (Seaforth Radio 2349/26.) Damaged by Mine at 0048/27 in 53° 37' 12" N. 3° 43' 12" W. No casualties. Ship being docked AM/28. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1505/2

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Ship. — In 62° 30' N. 16° 19' W. steering 050° at 18 knots. (NORTHERN GIFT 0740/26 to S.O. Trawlers N.P.)

G.204 on MUGGY Patrol diverted to search at 1300 hours in 63° 28' N. 13° 40' W, reports nothing seen except one vessel carrying all lights at 1735 in 60° 30' N. 5° 36' W. steering South at 10 knots (Pitreavie 2010/26 to Adty.)

Enemy Unit. — Position of probable Surface Craft at 1246/26 was 52° N. 3° E. D/F unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1333/26 to C. in C. Nore.) At 1640/26 position was 51° 50'N. 2° 20' E. D/F unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1713/26 to C. in C. Nore.)

E. Boats. — There are sure indications of E-Boat activity in Southern North Sea tonight. (C. in C. Nore 2051/26.)

MOST SECRET.

26. 10. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

TENACITY. (Rescue Tug) Disabled by defect in steering-gear. Repairs in hand here. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1601/26.)

MERCURY. (Paddle Minesweeper) S.O. 11th.M/S. Flotilla reports MERCURY sunk at 0115 after damage by own Mine. No casualties (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0905/26 to Admty.) Board of Inquiry being held; but appears MERCURY damaged by Mine in sweep at 1730, was taken in tow, and sank later. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1808/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

VESPER. ...y 1814/25. Delayed by defects. Probably sailing 28/10. (C. in C. W.A. 1450/26 to C. in C. Nore.)

PELICAN. Collided with Trawler CAPE PORTLAND at 0004/26 near Howarp Light Vessel. Stem turned and fore-peak flooded, but consider can continue present Convoy duties. (PELICAN 1826/26 to Admty.)

TRUE ACCORD. (H.M.Drifter.) Lost in collision with H.M. Trawler SANCHTO. All crew safe. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth. Reed. 0991/26.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions (D.T.D. 1312/26 to C. in C. H.F.).

S.L. 58.

Not met. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1130. (LA MALOUINE, 0650/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry) Arrived less 3 ships (names) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1731/26).

O.B.M. 266.

1640/27. ROSEMARY. 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 0915/26).

H.X. 95 B.

Anchoring Moelfre Bay today, entering harbour 0900/27. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0940/26).

F.S. 70.

11 ships, 2 additional from Middlesbrough (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0943/26).

F.N. 66.

All Tyne ships arrived except STAAD MAASTRECHT (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0944/26).

O.G. 48.

1230 on 29/12. Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1025/26).

W.N. 60.

0920/26. BLACKFLY and BERKSHIRE. 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1053/26, 1055/26

F.N. 68.

Postponed 24 hours, fog. VANITY and WESTMINSTER return to Sheerness if visibility permits (C. in C. Nore 1058/26).

H.X. 98.

Proceed with H.X. 98 to Sydney C.B. and await further orders.

S.C. 17.

Keep well clear of S.C. 17 which sailed Halifax 1100 A.S.T/23 (route). (D.T.D. 1129/26 to LACONIA).

S.C. 16.

Route from R.V. (D.T.D. 1215/26 to C. in C. W.A.).

O.B. 264.

Sailed 1300 approx. /24. 2 ships, 10 knots. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1301/26 1302/26).

F.N. 67.

Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1313/26).

E.N. 68.

My 1217/20. E.N. 68 postponed 24 hours. F.N. 69 cancelled. Escort for E.N. 68 PELICAN and FOWEY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1313/28).

/O.B. 267.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys. (contd).

O.B. 267.	1300 on 30/12. Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1359/26 to Admty).
S.C. 17.	Your 1256/26. My 1403/23. R.V. date is 5/1 (C.O.A.C. Halifax to Admty 1451/26).
C.E. 20.	Sailed 1500 6 M.V's and French ship CONGRE. Request you arrange for air protection from daylight 27/12 and bombing of gun positions tonight. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/26 to C. in C. Nore).
W.N. 61.	Code "Rusty" 2100/28. Trawlers RUMBA, SALTARELLO 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1701/26).
E.N. 47.	1830/26 PAYNTER, ARCTIC EXPLORER, additional escort WOLFHOUND 31 ships 1 ship for Clyde (N.C.S.O. Methil 2014/26, 2016/26).
O.B. 264.	Sailed HEATHER to overtake O.B. 264. (F. O.I.C. Greenock 0545/26).
H.X. 96.	My 1750/25 H.X. 96. 24 hours early. Join by 1300/26 convoy has been instructed to steer through 60° 00'N 13° 00'W if not met at R/V. (C. in C. W.A. 0852/26 to ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, VENEMOUS, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA). Commdre H.X. 96 did not receive my 1758/25. Now has been ordered to pass through 58° 00'N, 9° 30'W and 56° 30'W 8° 40'W estimate convoy will pass through first position 1300/27. (C. in C. W.A. 1911/26 to ROCHESTER). Not met. My position course and speed 060° 33'W 281° 12 knots (ROCHESTER 1601/25 to C. in C. W.A.).
O.B.O. 265.	0400/27 escort VISCOUNT, 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1548/26).
F.N. 68, F.S.72. F.N. 70, F.S.73.	Additional escort for F.N. 68, F.S. 72 GUILLEMOT, F.N. 70 F.S. 73 SNAPDRAGON (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1550/26 to GUILLEMOT).
O.B. 266.	My 1626/22. For O.B. 268 read O.B. 266 (C. in C. W.A. 1730/26).

/O.B. 265.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.12.40. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

O.B. 265.	Sailed VANQUISHER, WHITEHALL, RHODODENDRON escort for O.B. 265 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1830/26). Sailed GENTIAN to overtake O.B. 265. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2048/26).
C.E. 20.	Portsmouth to Southend (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1637/26).
E.N. 47.	My 1604/26 BEN-MY-CHREE, VIMY e.t.a. Aberdeen 0900/27 12th M/S Group sailed. Aberdeen 1730/26 then to Scurdy Ness E.t.a. midnight then ahead E.N. 47 to Buchanness where 19th M/S Group relieves. (C. in C. Rosyth 1638/26).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5B.	Request you will sail ships in accordance with Admiralty's 1539/25 arranging air cover and reporting expected time of arrival at destinations. (C. in C. W.A. 1244/26 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Belfast.)
OTTAWA. EUMAEUS. ABOSSO. SALOPIAN. GARLAND.	Admiralty's 2147/23 OTTAWA is to escort EUMAEUS and ABOSSO from Liverpool. GARLAND is to escort SALOPIAN from Clyde. F.O.I.C.Liverpool is to sail and route convoy and arrange R/V with Clyde section. F.O.C.N.P. is requested to arrange R/V for inward escort of A.M.C.'s by OTTAWA GARLAND if convenient. (C. in C. W.A. 1630/26).
W.S.5B.	(Arrangements for docking and loading) (D. of S.T. 2104/26 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

4.M.V's	My 1227/26. Sailed 1800/26 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1812/26).
5 M.V's	Intend sailing 1730/27 for Needles Channel. E.t.a. Needles 0830/28. Request escort. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 2337/26.
H.X. 100	Your 1256/24 Date of sailing and R.V. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1109/26 to Admty). (C.O.A.C. Halifax to Admty 1114/26).
H.X. 99.	Sailing telegram (list of ships) (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1425/26).

/Sailing.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

H.X. 99.
(contd).

Sailing telegram 1300 A.S.T. 26/12 Escorts, ALAUNIA PURPOISE, H H X AURANIA
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1420/26).

S.C. 16.

Meet S.C. 16 15 ships unescorted 1000/28 068 54° 05'N. 17° 00'W. 068° 6½ knots then through 54° 30'N. 15° 15'W. 56° 10'N. 13° 30'W. 55° 50'N. 09° 00'W. Convoy form two columns for passing through North Channel after passing 08° 00'W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1428/26 to ACTIVE).

To avoid U-Boat to southward of track alter course at daylight to regain 56° 00'N then steer 270° to 18° West thence to 54°N. 25° 00'W. Inform ROYAL CROWN destination changed to New York.
(C. in C. W.A. 2126/26 to ACTIVE).

S.L. 58.

Adjust speed to arrive Bar not earlier than 0930/27 Ships are not to anchor at Bar Light Vessel.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1430/26 to ANEMONE for Commodore).

PACIFIC GROVE.

Have S.S. PACIFIC GROVE ex H.X. 95 for Liverpool. Request Oban escort of next E.N. convoy be detailed to R/V in proximity of Lismore Lighthouse and that time of R/V be signalled to Oban to avoid delay.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1605/26).

KENT.
KELVIN.
KIPLING.

Cancel my 1554 re proceeding to Milford Haven. Proceed to Plymouth in accordance with previous orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 1658/26).

H.X. 96.

After passing through 60 degs. 00 mins N. 13 degs 00 W. steer to pass through 58 degs. 00 mins N. 09 degs. 30 mins W. thence to 56 degs. 30 mins N. 08 degs. 40 Mins W. Escorts are informed that I estimate you will be in first position about 1300/27.
(C. in C. W.A. 1908/26 to Commodore, NORWEGIAN).

/? F.N. 68.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.12.1940. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (contd).

? F.N. 68. Your 1801. Remain with anchored ships until F.N. 68 passes you then order them to weigh and enter proceeding with F.N. 68 yourselves. Convoy F.N. 68 Cmdre Lieut. Com. Lundy in s.s. EMPIRE PIGEON. Weigh 0900/27 Ships to date 31. Corvette escort GUILLEMOT.
(C. in C. Nore 2220/26 to FOWEY).

Your 1348. Do not allow any ships to anchor West of the Nore Light Vessel. Inform Commodore he is not to weigh tomorrow until ordered. Speed is to be 9 knots between East Cant and Garrison Point.
(C. in C. Nore 1431/26 to PELICAN, FOWEY).

Your 1435 to PELICAN. If visibility allows, anchor ships in swept channel between B 3 and East Spile. Otherwise in swept channel as necessary. Report when ships are anchored.
(C. in C. Nore 1535/26 to FOWEY).

Routes. From South Atlantic - (See FOREIGN STATIONS, S. Atlantic).

MOST SECRET.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

Home Fleet Dispositions.

Movements ordered in case raider may attempt to return to Germany via Denmark Strait.
(C. in C. H.F. 2017/26 - see HOME COMMANDS, Operations).

VELOX, VIDETTE.

Sailed 0300/26 VELOX and VIDETTE in accordance with my 1642/25.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 0310/26 to S.O. Force H. etc).

Force K.

Indicate position course and speed and intentions.
(S.O. Force H. 0512A/26 to S.O. Force K).

WISHART.

Have been detached by S.O. Force H to join convoy during daylight of 27th. My position course and speed are 36° 24'N. 10° 20'W. 277° 12.5 knots altering course to 330° at about 0600/27. Oil remaining 287 tons. Shifting to 107 kilocycles per second.
(WISHART 0600/26 to F.O.C.N.A.).

My position 0800N. 040° 05'N. 023° 05'W. Intend trying to collect convoy at Commodore's noon rendezvous and escort to 037° N. 016° W. Visibility 3 miles.
(S.O. Force K. 0837/26 to Admty S.O. Force H. and BERWICK).

Hasten reply to my 0512A/26.
(S.O. Force H. 0845A/26 to S.O. Force K).

DERBYSHIRE to assist EMPIRE TROOPER

Proceed to assistance of EMPIRE (?TROOPER or DISCOVERER) believed damaged in position 043° 58'N. 024° 15'W. at 1751Z/25. CLYCLAMEN with W/T out of action was reported standing by at 1648Z.
(S.O. Force H. 0801/26 to DERBYSHIRE).

If in touch with EMPIRE TROOPER report position course and speed to Admiralty using her W/T if yours is out of action.
(S.O. Force H. 0807/26 to CYCLAMEN).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40.).

DERBYSHIRE to assist EMPIRE TROOPER (contd).

Your 0801/26. Following has been received from BONAVENTURE (begins). My position 41° 57'N. 23° 16'W. Proceeding to assistance of EMPIRE TROOPER. 1930/25 (Ends).
(D;O.D. (F) 1046/26 to F.O. Force H).

Instructions to W.S.5A.

Request you will instruct ships of W.S. 5A. by broadcast from Rugby and on 500 kc/s who are passing through either 309 Robin 442 or 331 Robin 436 or who are already to the south and east of above positions to steer position 334 Robin 166.
(S.O. Force H. 1105/26 to Admty).

Force K. Position.

My position course and speed are at 1200 N 039° 16'N 022° 14'W 175 degs 14. Visibility 1 mile improved. Your 0512 not received. None of Convoy met. Intend to maintain present course and speed. Flying impracticable at present.
(S.O. Force K. 1130/26 to S.O. Force H).

For - CLAN CUMMING, CLAN MACDONALD, ESSEX, EMPIRE SONG, NORTHERN PRINCE, BHUTAN, MENELAUS, SETTLER DELANE, CITY OF DERBY, STENTOR, ARABISTAN, EMPIRE TROOPER, ANSELM, CITY OF LONDON, TAMAROA, CITY OF CANTERBURY, NEURALIA, RANGITIKI, COSTA RICA, ELIZABETHVILLE, ORBITA.

Steer for position 334° ROBIN 166 miles repitition 334° ROBIN 166 miles.
(Admty 1342/26 to all ships area 1. G.B.M.S. Ships and Authorities, Rosyth).

All merchant ships of convoy W. S. 5A (including merchant ships for operation "EXCESS") have been ordered by broadcast method to steer for position 334° "ROBIN" 166 miles.
(D.O.D. (F) 1546/26 to F.O.'s Force H. and K. BERWICK, FURIOUS, etc).

/KENYA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

KENYA Report (false).

One Deutschland Class, bearing 022° 5 miles, course unknown my position 045 GXLE 11 point 12. (FXLE - see 1629/26 - 47°N, 11°W).

Message B.N. 242 appear to be a corrupt retransmission of KENYA's 1143 which reported one aircraft. (C.S.10 1540/26 to Admty).

KENYA's 1143/26 was apparently mutilated in transit and in fact referred only to one aircraft and not one pocket battleship. (D.C. 1759/26 to Areas A and B. North Atlantic & C.C.).

KENYA's 1143. It seems probable the enemy is proceeding to a French port. Request you will arrange destroyer night attack if possible. (D.O.D. (H) 1604/26 to C. in C. W.A.).

What was time of receip and frequency used? (D.S.O. 1605/26 to Ship: using Naval General Call sign AC who relayed KENYA's 1143/26).

KENYA's 1143 position was obviously F X L E. (47°N, 11°W) (D.C. 1629/26 to Area A and B, etc).

No battleship or other surface craft has been sighted by KENYA. (C.S. 10 1650/26 to Admty).

Cancel my 1604/26 (Requesting destroyer night attack on raider). (D.C. 1724/26 to C. in C. W.A.).

Pocket Battleship reported position 250° Ushant 240 miles at 1143/26. May be making for Bay of Biscay Port. TUNA patrol off Gironde. (V.A.S. 1636/26 to S/M's Area B).

Cancel my 1636 information was false. (V.A.S. 1709/26).

/BADEN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

BADEN intercepted. German s.s. BADEN intercepted 1245Z/26 by BONAVENTURE in 44°N., 25° 07'W. (See German Merchant Ships).

Force K. My 1130 and your 1105. Have altered course to 110° at 1300N. (S.O. Force K. 1324N/26 to S.O. Force H).

Force H, position. My position, course and speed at 2000/26 will be 039° 06'N 017° 36'W 145° 16 knots turning to 305° at 0800 and then 037°N 016°W.

Force K. position. S.L. Force K continue search for ships passing through 039° 08'N. 021° 38'W. and keeping me informed of situation.

FURIOUS. FURIOUS to arrive 037°N. 016°W. at 1400/27 searching as far as possible to North and East for ships proceeding direct to Gibraltar.

BERWICK. BERWICK to search to North and West of 037°N. 016°W. during forenoon of 27th rendezvousing with S.O. Force H. in above position at 1400 27th.

WISHART. WISHART to patrol in vicinity of 037° N. 016° W. from dawn 27th keeping clear of Force H. during the night.

DUNEDIN. DUNEDIN rendezvous[illegible]s for BERWICK.

Ships addressed are to report at 2200/26 and 1200/27, number of Merchant ships in company. All times Zone-One.
(S.O. Force H. 1721/26).

FURIOUS. ARGUS. Your 1721/26. ARGUS only in company, no Merchant ships. My position, course and speed at 2200 Zone-One is 040° 07'N. 018° 16'W. 135° 14 Knots. Intend to fly off reconnaissance to maximum depth to North and East at Dawn. (FURIOUS, 2010/26).

BERWICK. Your 1721 (number of merchant ships in company) (BERWICK 2101Z/26).

/Ships.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40)

Ships with Force K. NORFOLK.

Your 1721/26. NORTHERN PRINCE, CLAN MACDONALD British ship EMPIRE SONG in company are being detached to reach your rendezvous 1400/27 In view of NORFOLK's fuel intend to leave area 039°N. 021°W. at noon so as to reach 334° "ROBIN" 166 by 0800/28. NORFOLK will then be limited to 12 knots except for emergency reserve. All times in subject matter zone minus one. (S.O. Force K. 2140/26 to S.O. Force H).

DORSETSHIRE. (to join Force K).

Your 1920/25. DORSETSHIRE ready to leave Freetown a.m./27 December. Request information for R/V with Force K and W S. 5A as soon as available. (C. in C. S.A. 1341N/28 to Admty amended 1549/26)

DORSETSHIRE.

Admiralty's 1920/25 DORSETSHIRE sails Freetown 0630/27 at speed of advance 20 knots through position 011° 30'N. 020° 00'W. 020° 00'N. 020° 00'W. then to rendezvous with Force K and W.S.5A estimated to be in position 037°N. 016°W. at 1400/27. and proceeding thence by route given in Admiralty's 0218/17 and 1810/25. (C. in C. S.A. 2147/26, to S.O. Force H. and Force K).

Your 1341/26. DORSETSHIRE should be sailed with moderate despath through positions 12° 40'N. 19° 30'W. 31°N. 21°W.
Rendezvous will be signalled later.
Following Secret Positions have been established for W.S. 5A.
34 degs. 30'N. 26 degs 00'W. PANSY.
34 degs. 30'N. 14 degs. 30'W. ROBIN.
27 degs. 00'N. 26. degs 00'W. COW
20 degs. 00'N. 24 degs 00'W. DAISY
14 degs. 00'N. 20 degs 00'W. ROSE
(D.O.D.(F). 2148/26 to C. in C. S.A.)
Proceed in accordance with previous orders and Admiralty 2148/26.
(C. in C. S. A. 2337/26 to DORSETSHIRE).

/BERWICK.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

BERWICK. defects.

Your 1810/25 para. (v) It is considered necessary for BERWICK to proceed to Gibraltar.

(a) To investigate and make good underwater damage.
(b) To attempt to free X turret and make it serviceable with one gun.
(c) To refuel, 300 tons of fuel having been lost due to punctured tank.

(a) Probably can be done by listing ship. Dockyard assistance (?had been) required for work on Ship's side.
(b) Dockyard assistance required.

Request ship may be berthed starboard side to wall.
(BERWICK 23022/26 to Admty).

BONAVENTURE.

My position course and speed at 2200 B.S.T. 043° 20' 022° 38'W. 125° 20 knots. No one in company.
(BONAVENTURE 2345/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

JOSEPH DUHAMEL Intercepted.

Sending in Trawler JOSEPH DUHAMEL. Intercepted at 1142 G.M.T. 034° 30'N., 015° 22'W., steering 110° at 0900 G.M.T. From Port Saint Pierre shipped in for Casablanca. Cargo 500 tons of fish. Armed Guard on board expected time of arrival 2200/28.
(MARION 1800/26 to F.O.C.N.F.)

RHONE and Submarine. SFAX Reported torpedoed.

1332/30 from S.O.(I) Gibraltar and 1736/28, Movements of French ships, from H.A.Washington. Confirmation is requested that no British submarine was responsible.
(Head of M. 1935/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MENDOZA.

Navifrance have applied in Montevideo for 750 tons oil fuel for French ship MENDOZA which is at present at Buenos Aires. Hoped to be able to prevent supply here.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2015/26 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

TUSCALOOSA. American Ambassador for France.

U.S.S. 8" Cruiser TUSCALOOSA with American Ambassador for French is due to arrive at Lisbon from United States A.M. 30/12. Route is not yet known but her presence in North Atlantic must be taken into account.
(D.D.I.C. 1547/26).

My 1547/26. Position of TUSCALOOSA at 1100/26 G.M.T. 39° 13'N., 47° 41'W.
(D.D.I.C. 2024/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE. Your 1052/23 A/S Trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE should be sailed with H.G.49 for refit at Liverpool. Intention to use your A/S Trawlers visiting U.K. for refits as additional escorts for H.G. and O.G. Con-voys.
(D.A/S.W. 1640/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A/S patrols.
(20[0] Group 1710/26 to Air Min).

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL. Arrival December 26/12 CORNWALL.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0800Z/26).

HOPECROWN ARAYBANK. Overdue shipping my 1105/25 HOPECROWN ARAYBANK arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0945B/26).

DEVONSHIRE. Simonstown arrival 26/12.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1220Z/26).

EMPIRE VOICE HYDROUSSA. My 1838/23 (1836/24 intended ?). overdue shipping. British EMPIRE VOICE and HYDROUSSA arrived 26/12.

VINDICTIVE. F.O.C.N.A's 1000/25. Cancel R/V with FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK. From position 022° 30'N., 020° 00'W., proceed at best possible speed to Freetown by following route: (a) 013° 40'N., 020° 00'W., (b) 009° 00'N., 016° 00'W., thence to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1247N/26 to VINDICTIVE).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE. Your 1052/23 A/S Trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE should be sailed with H.G.49 for refit at Liverpool. Intention to use your A/S Trawlers visiting U.K. for refits as additional escorts for H.G. and O.G. Con-voys.
(D.A/S.W. 1640/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

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South Atlantic.

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(N.O.I.C. Durban 0800Z/26).

HOPECROWN ARAYBANK. Overdue shipping my 1105/25 HOPECROWN ARAYBANK arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0945B/26).

DEVONSHIRE. Simonstown arrival 26/12.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1220Z/26).

EMPIRE VOICE HYDROUSSA. My 1038/23 (1038/24 intended ?). overdue shipping, British EMPIRE VOICE and HYDROUSSA arrived 26/12.

VINDICTIVE. F.O.C.N.A's 1000/25. Cancel R/V with FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK. From position 022° 30'N., 020° 00'W., proceed at best possible speed to Freetown by following route: (a) 013° 40'N., 020° 00'W., (b) 009° 00'N., 016° 00'W., thence to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 12471/26 to VINDICTIVE).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Your 1206/16 and S.N.O. Simonstown 1543B/21. Approved to carry out rpairs at Capetown in accordance with paragraph 2A. Requested that an immediate report be made as to what spare parts are required. It is appreciated that no elaborate alterations and additions can be carried out.
(D.O.D.(F) 1636/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

NEPTUNE. DORSETSHIRE. Arrival 1515/26. Senior Officer Force M in NEPTUNE with DORSETSHIRE.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1705N/26 to R.A.S.A.D. 1615N/26 to Adty).

Internees. Accommodation. Your 93577 (M.O.4.) of 19/12. (a) Presence of internees in West Africa is an embarrassment to security and provision of guards is an additional commitment for which my rescources sanctional inadequate. (b) Provision of suitable accommodation in West Africa for Europeans is always a most difficult problem and in Sierra Leone as I have repeatedly emphasized there is none without building. Particularly wish to avoid diverting materials and labour to construction of internment camps before my military needs are completed. Most strongly urge therefore that internees not retained in West Africa.
(C.O.C. W.Africa 1705/26 to W.O.)

Fuelling Corvettes. Convoy W.S.B.A. In view of submarine activity off Freetown suggest Corvettes should if possible be detached in time to fuel at Ponta Delgada and rejoin convoy W.S.B.A. in vicinity of Cape Verde Is.
(C.in C. S.A. 1841N/26 to S.O.Force K.)

DELHI Movement of Foreign Legion. Left Cameroons River 1950 Zone minus One. Present maximum speed available: CAP DES PALMES about 14 knots, TOAUREG about 7 knots.
(DELHI 1954/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Shipping Intelligence Sailings.

Cancel my 0900/11 and my 1737/8/12.
All merchant vessels, too slow for convoy and of 13 knots and over, a e to be sailed independently.

(2) All merchant vessels sailed independently from South Atlantic ports to U.K. direct are to be routed eastward of a line (a) joining positions:

1.	11 degs.	20 mins.	N.,	21° 10'W.,
2.	16	30		21 20
3.	25	00		24 10
4.	40	00		33 00

and westward of a line (b) joining position

1.	11 degs.	20'N,	20 degs.	00'West.
2.	40	00	19	00
3.	50	00	25	00
4.	56	00	25	00

Ships are to cross meridian 25 degrees west between 56 degs. and 59 degs. 30'N., and may pass either North or South Rockall outside 70 miles distance. Great care must be taken not to establish any focal point, particularly in the vicinity of 56 degs. North 25 degs. West.

3. Alternative routes to Oban Clyde Liverpool Milford Haven and Barry Roads are to be given to all ships.

4. Ships bound for East coast ports are to be routed to Oban unless they require Diesel or fuel oil or repairs to enable them to complete their voyage in which case they are to be sent to Clyde instead.

5. Attention is called to my 1220/30/10 and 1521/10/11 regarding air escort.

6. Shipping from Para and St. Vincent need not pass Eastward of positions 1,2,3 E of line A but is otherwise to conform.

7. Shipping bound for Gibraltar is to conform to instructions in para.2. until latitude 33 degs. North is reached.

8. Southbound ships will keep to westward of line joining positions A1 A2 A3, and eastward of Cape Verde Island. Masters should be warned that southbound shipping may be met northward of position A3 and southward of position A1.
(C.in C. S.A. 2251/26 to S.O.(I)s Capetown and Freetown for M.C.S.O's).

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

COVENTRY damage.

My 1939/14. Damage sustained by COVENTRY. (details) Temporary repairs completed. Intend ship proceeds Malta at end of month for permanent repairs. (C.in C. Med. 1045/26 to Adty).

Air Report Alexandria Raid.

Operational Summary No.199 up to 1200 hours 26/12.

1 Egypt. Night 23/24th December. Further to para. 1 of my A.886 25/12. 5 Blenheims bombed Gazala North landing ground. Bombs fell in target area but results unobserved. One enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs in sea off Alexandria. No damage or casualties. Day. 25/12. No bombing. Reconnaissances of Bardia and Tobruk areas reported no movements. No change in military situation Bardia.

2. Greece. Day 25/12. No bombing operations. One Sunderland searched South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

4. Kenya. Day 25/12. No bombing operations. JU86's made 2 patrols Mombasa. 3 troopships escorted. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1127/26).

Submarines.

My 2015/24 para.1. For 014° 31'East read 014° 13'East.
Para.2 of the same signal and para 1. of my 1321/26 to OSIRIS only, for 035° 38'N., read 035° 38'N.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1145/26).

My 2015/24 para.2. TRIDENT and TETRARCH leave Malta 1715/26 through 033° 58'N., 014° 07'E thence former on course 205° and latter through positions; 034° 40'N., 013° 50'E., 034° 40'N., 014° 30'E., 035° 20'N., 013° 20'E. Anticipate TETRARCH's position at 0001/29 will be 034° 43'N., 013° 51'E. Times. Zone (minus) One.
(V.A.Malta 1321/26 to OSIRIS).

In your 2015/24 OTUS and OSIRIS are routed from position D through 0350 31' 014° 31'. Request this may be confirmed in view of GRB 95.
(Capt: S.1. 1907/26 to V.A.Malta.)

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

URANIA. Admty. 1857/7. Panamanian ship URANIA arrived Suez 25/12 and is detained with an armed guard on board. Ship has mixed cargo for Suez and 500 tons of coffee for transhipment to Greece. Request early instructions observing that Embassy foresees political difficulties. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1254/26 to Adty).

Operation "Excess". The 5 M.T.Ships in operation "EXCESS" are each fitted with 2-2pounder Mark VIII star single equipments for passage through Mediterranean. These guns belong to T.L.C's now on passage via Cape in W.3.5.A. on arrival of M.T. Ships at Alexandria guns and ammunition are to be removed and may be put to any local service pending arrival of T.L.C's provided they are suitable for latter when required. Crews for these guns are also in the M.T.ships and are to go with their guns on disembarkation from M.T. ships. If ESSEX does not go beyond Malta V.A.Malta is requested to arrange for onward passage of her guns and crews to Alexandria. Four additional guns and crews to bring total at Alexandria up to 14 for T.L.C's will be sent through Mediterranean at next opportunity. (D.T.S.D. 1624/26 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta Report. Combined services report Malta up to 1700/26. All times G.M.T. 0720 to 12.57 Glenn Martin 431 flight photographic reconnaissance Brindisi, Taranto for enemy naval untis.

Brindisi. 09.08, sighted 1 tanker and small escort vessel speed 8 knots position 8 miles N.E. of Cape Otranto course, 310 degrees, Brindisi. Outer harbour 2 M/V's 8,000 to 10,000 tons and vessel resembling troopship 10,000 to 12,000 tons leaving harbour steering east. Inner harbour 4 cruisers 6 destroyers 5 submarines few small M/V's and approximately 30 seplanes. These units were disposed as follows. 1 cruiser anchored at base of Y shaped entrance to inner harbour. 2 cruise s and M/V's in southern fork of Y. Destroyers and submarines alongside of town Mole 1 moored cruiser and sundry merchant shipping. Clouds prevented photographs being taken.

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

URANIA.

Admty. 1857/7. Panamanian ship URANIA arrived Suez 25/12 and is detained with an armed guard on board. Ship has mixed cargo for Suez and 500 tons of coffee for transhipment to Greece. Request early instructions observing that Embassy foresees political difficulties. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1254/26 to Adty).

Operation "Excess".

The 5 M.T.Ships in operation "EXCESS" are each fitted with 2-2pounder Mark VIII star single equipments for passage through Mediterranean. These guns belong to T.L.C's now on passage via Cape in W.3.5.A. on arrival of M.T. Ships at Alexandria guns and ammunition are to be removed and may be put to any local service pending arrival of T.L.C's provided they are suitable for latter when required. Crews for these guns are also in the M.T.ships and are to go with their guns on disembarkation from M.T. ships. If ESSEX does not go beyond Malta V.A.Malta is requested to arrange for onward passage of her guns and crews to Alexandria. Four additional guns and crews to bring total at Alexandria up to 14 for T.L.C's will be sent through Mediterranean at next opportunity. (D.T.S.D. 1624/26 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700/26. All times G.M.T. 0720 to 12.57 Glenn Martin 431 flight photographic reconnaissance Brindisi, Taranto for enemy naval untis.

Brindisi.

09.08, sighted 1 tanker and small escort vessel speed 8 knots position 8 miles N.E. of Cape Otranto course, 310 degrees, Brindisi. Outer harbour 2 M/V's 8,000 to 10,000 tons and vessel resembling troopship 10,000 to 12,000 tons leaving harbour steering east. Inner harbour 4 cruisers 6 destroyers 5 submarines few small M/V's and approximately 30 seplanes. These units were disposed as follows. 1 cruiser anchored at base of Y shaped entrance to inner harbour. 2 cruise s and M/V's in southern fork of Y. Destroyers and submarines alongside of town Mole 1 moored cruiser and sundry merchant shipping. Clouds prevented photographs being taken.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Taranto.

Taranto inner harbour. 3 cruisers 6 small destroyers alongside pens. Outer harbour cruiser in fairway of entrance to inner harbour and 3 destroyers alongside Y shaped jetty. 8 Fleet Auxiliaries scattered around. 1 Battleship on right side before entrance to inner harbour. Photographs taken reveal LITTORIO battleship in new dock inner harbour Taranto.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/26).

Enemy Intelligence.

Yugoslav General Staff have information showing: (a) Garrison at Zara amounted to 6579 having been reduced by 2741 since November 10th. (b) Supplying of Dodecanese by Italy is being carried out exclusively by air and this with increased use of aircraft for maintaining communications with North Africa has led to interruption of whole civil aircraft communication inside Italy. (c) Italian S.S. OLYMPIA 6040 tons torpedoed daybreak 6/12 some forty miles S.W. Durazzo.
(N.I.D. Note. OLYMPIA sent out an S.O.S. at 0341/6 from somewhere in the Adriatic or Eastern Mediterranean).
(NOTE: Number of men employed agrees with information in L.D.)
(d) New Dydro plane Fiat S.R. 42 metal construction middle wing is in production. 2 Fiat A.74 S.R. 38 engines each 870 H.P. gives maximum speed 450 Kilometres per hour. Length of wing 19.5 metres, wing area 50 square metres. Crew 2-3 carried.
(e) 1800 men present working in Torpedo factory Fiume, output 45 torpedoes per mensem.

U/BOAT Losses.

(f) N.A's Rome estimate Italy has lost 30 submarines up to 16/11. Since average 20% of total submarines strength believed to be constantly under repairs they consider Italy now 80 submarines in service.
(A.N.A. Belgrade, 1722/26 to D.N.I.)

Greece.

To Admiral Sakellarion from 1st Sea Lord. (message of thanks for Xmas greetings).
(1st Sea Lord 1821/26 to A.N.A.Athens).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 26.12.40. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

HYPERION. (Sunk 22/12). The evidence in your 1035/23 does not entirely exclude the possibility of HYPERION being sunk by a U/Boat. Is there any evidence that HYPERION's contact was confirmed by other vessels?
(D.M.S. 1942/26 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.

WILLEM VANDER SAAN. Durban arrival Netherlands Minelayer WILLEM VAN DE ZANN.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0455/26).

Netherlands M.L. WILLEM VAND DER ZAAN sailed 1000Z/26 E.T.A. Port Louis Mauitius p.m. 31/12 or a.m.1/1/41. according to weather conditions.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1000Z/26 to Adty).

Red Sea Convoys. My 1606/9/8 para. 3 regarding ships being sailed independently to Aden to join B.N. Convoy. Ships having no fuel or other requirements at Aden are to be sailed so as to arrive there within 3 days of convoy sailing date. Ships which have requirements at Aden are to be sailed (if possible) earlier than above, their being spaced out over the whole 15 day period. Next B.N. Convoy sailing date from Aden will be 2/1/41.
(C.in C. E.I. 0708/26 to A.N.C.B.)

ANTENOR. My 1130/25. ANTENOR to leave patrol area West of Achin Head a.m. 37/12 and proceed direct to Colombo adjusting speed to arrive 0230Z/30.
(C.in C. E.I. and 0811Z/26 to ANTENOR).

Troop Movement. N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1341/25 and S.S.T.O. India (Bombay's) 0600/25. In order to suit escort arrangement it is desired that troops should sail from Mauritious (date) S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) is requested to sail (TALAMBA) from Bombay so as to arrive Mauritius not later than (date). N.O.I.C. Mauritius thought troops will be ready to sail if TALAMBA arrives (dates) Whether TALAMBA will sail via Durban or to

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Suez direct will be decided as soon as possible. S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) is requested to confirm that TALAMBA can proceed (a) from Mauritius to Suez or (b) Durban to Suez without fuelling or water at Aden. (v) If troops cannot sail the movement will probably have to be postponed for at least a wek.
(C.in C. E.I. 1152Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius).

Your 1152/26 Troops will be ready.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1729/Z/26).

R.I.N.A/S. in Persian Gulf.

Your 1242Z/24. Re employing of R.I.N.A/S in Persian Gulf. Confirmed that there is no objections. (D.A.S.W.) to ..
(1240/26 to C.in C. E.I.)

KANIMBLA.

KANIMBLA with NIEU ZEEKAND, JOHAN DE WITT arrived here.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1301/26).

Shipping.

Departure 26/12 PORT WYNDHAM, DELIUS POINT CLEAR (Greek) and BENALDER for Suez. Route. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1635Z/26).

Convoy.

A.N.11. Sailing telegram. 1500 B/26. Escr HYACINTH from Port Said, PENNY and SALVIA from Alexandria. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1624/26).

KANIMBLA sailed in accordance with 1004/25 from C.in C. E.I.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1803Z/26).

Aden Air Report.

Summary No.197 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 hours G.M.T. 26/12. 6 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escort 3 for convoy B.S.11. 3 for W.S.4.B. 5 Blenheims sorties 203 Sqdn. made 8 sweeps covering latter convoy. 3 Gladiators 94 Squadron fighter patrol Aden 1000 to 1010 G.M.T.
(Air H.Q. Aden 1730/26 to Air Min).

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China Trade.

It is probable that in next few days permission to resume sailing between Indo China and Hong Kong and Singapore will be given on following basis British and Allied ships combined to be limited to two ships from Hong Kong and one from Singapore per month together with one Dutch tanker. Any port in Indo China may be used except Haiph. French to be allowed to send two ships to Hong Kong and one ship to Singapore per month. It is necessary to be as unobtrusive as possible and to spread ships over month. Hong Kong should therefore send ships about first and 20th of month and Singapore about 10th. Preparation may be to bring this into force as soon as further signal is sent.
(C.in C. China, 0823Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Hong Kong).

Far East Intelligence.

F.E.W.10. No major change. (a) Japanese Military Mission under Lieutenant General Yamashita has followed Naval Mission to Germany. (b) U.S.A. U.S. cruiser CINCINNATI arrived (corrupt group). (c) Indo China and Thai-Land. Initial conversation towards peaceful settlement reported. Meanwhile bombing and frontier incidents continue on small scale. Japan has announced her neutrality but now supplied munitions to Thai-Land only. (d) Raider situation. 500 (? survivors) information landed Emirau Island BISMARCK corrupt group.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 1011Z/26 to A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. etc.)

TALLEYRAND.

Your 0737Z/23. If possible ascertain date TALLEYRAND was captured. Ship left Fremantle on 25/7.
(D.D.I.C. 1630/26 to S.O.(I) Shanghai).

Your 0213/21. Foreign Office suggest you repeat this signal to Ambassador Shanghai, Governor Hong Kong and Consul General Manila if these authorities not already informed.
(Adty. 1817/26 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DIOMEDE.

Leave Trinidad after receipt of mail in LADY HAWKINS and proceed patrol square F.30 D to cover routes of outward bound shipping still proceeding direct to Sombrero and Mona passage. Fuel as necessary from Oiler BISHOPDALE who is ordered to await you at Tortola.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/26 to DIOMEDE).

Intelligence Security.

A.L.NID 0395/40 of Oct.20th para.20, suggests comprehensive study of security in whole intelligence area and will involve much extra work, while to accomplish it satisfactorily, additional reporting agents appear necessary. Request information whether any agents who could furnish additional reports to S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica. Question of collation and distribution of security of intelligence has been referred to in my 1511/11/12, to Admiralty only. S.O.(I) Kingston's present staff even with increase approved by my 1242/26/12 is insufficient to cope with collation and distribution of more intelligence than the three at present being received but if proposals in my 1511/11/12 are approved, it is considered requirements would be satisfactorily met.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1252/26 to Adty).

BADGER U.S.N.

Your 1034/10. (Propose not to claim salvage, regarding grounding of U.S. Destroyer BADGER). Approved but reconsideration may be desirable later and present arrangements should be regarded as without prejudice to possible future decisions.
(Hd. of M. 1331/26 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

STUREHOLM. (in H.X.84) Suspicious.

Your 1356/24 not to F.O.C. 3rd B.S. STUREHOLM (Swedish) was in H.X.84 and in vicinity of sinking of JERVIS BAY: Galveston previously reported crew and Officers pro German. If ship is located suggest she be carefully watched in future.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1517/26 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

CYRUS FIELD. Halifax departure 1744/26, Cable ship CYRUS FIELD.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1745/26).

Movements. Arrival 26/12 REVENGE(from T.C.S.) ASSINIBORNE, RESTIGOUCHE. Departure, COLUMBIA, local escort ALNUNIA, PORPOISE Ocean Escort.
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1835/26 to Adty etc.)

Australia.

Raider attack. A.C.N.B. 1243/25 (Release of communique re raider attack off New Zealand).
New Zealand Government agree in general with proposals but would prefer to mention TURAKINA HOLMWOOD KOMATA and (quote) overseas vessel recently lost off East Coast of New Zealand.
(N.Z.N.B. 0002/26 to Adty A.C.N.B.)

Your 1243Z/25 concur generally. Ref. para. D, suggest enemy commerce raiders be substituted for enemy raider force. You will be informed by signal as soon as next of kin procedure has been carried out here.
(D.P.D. 1658/26 to A.C.N.B.)

Raider Survivors C.B's Compromised. My 1835Z/24 re survivors from captured ships. NARVIK prisoners are not included among survivors landed at Emirau. Captain stated they would be landed elsewhere 29/12. Raiders stated to have accurate knowledge shipping movements. S.P. 02272 Merchant Navy Code recoding Table. (8) and S.P. 02272 (9) believed to be in enemy hands.
(A.C.N.B. 0631Z/26 to Adty etc.)

TEIYO MARU Raider (ex KULMERLAND) My 1835Z/24 Hopkins reports KULMERLAND (now renamed TEIYO MARU) is short of fuel and stores and considers she is probably now proceeding to Japan to replenish. Vessel is lightly armed has funnel with Osaka Shosen Caisha markings. Japanese colours each bow amidships and stern. Carries a seaplane.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0334Z/26 to Adty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

10 M/V's Sunk. Description of NANYO MARU.

My 1835Z/24. Naval Intelligence Officers at Emirau report. (Begins). All ten vessels sunk. European survivors of TURAKINA, NOTOU, RINGWOOD still aboard NARVIK. HOLMWOOD November 25th 27 miles W. by S. of Durham Point, Chatham Isle, RANGITANE, November 27th 037 degrees South 176 degrees West. TRIONA, December 6th, VINNI December 7th TRIASTER KOMATA and TRIANIC December 8th near Nauru. This raider is NANYO MARU, Captain Essen, 5000 tons, probably 10-8inch guns and 5 pairs twin torpedo tubes generally like Hanser line, one Japanese Officer thought to be on board. Vigilant W/T Watch. D/F. Possible clue to raiders base nearby circular, narrow flat Atoll enclosing lagoon about ¾ miles diameter and entrance about ¼ mile wide. Method of attack one raider closes in astern and one on each beam 0930Z/26 (Ends).
(A.C.N.B. 1900Z/26 to Adty etc.)

WARREGO. SWAN. ORARA.

WARREGO, SWAN and ORARA arrived Port Phillip Bay 0158Z/26.
(A.C.N.B. 1135Z/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BADEN intercepted.

Have intercepted German S.S. BADEN. Crew abandoned ship and set fire. Weather unsuitable for boarding. Ship appears to be floating normally and might be salved later. Embarked 39 survivors. My position is 044° N., 025° 07' W. Have not made contact with EMPIRE TROOPER.
(BONAVENTURE 1245Z/26 to Adty recd. 1503/26)

German S.S. BADEN has reported being stopped by a British warship at 1200 in position 43° 00'N., 27° 45'W. BADEN sailed from Teneriffe on 15/12. From information available in Admiralty no British warship is in this position.
(D.C. for D.D.I.C. 1402/26).

Cancel last sentence of my 1402/26. BADEN was intercepted by BONAVENTURE in position 44° N., 25° 07'W.
(D.S.C. 1806/26).

OSSAG.

Cartagena reports German Tanker OSSAG disguised as Spanish arrived 19/12 from Trieste with 3000 tons petroleum consigned to order. Reported she had narrow escape from our ships. Future movements unknown.
(N.A. Madrid 1636/26 to Adty).

Italian Merchant Ships.

OLYMPIA.

Torpedoed 6/12. 40 miles S.W. Durazzo
(A.N.A. Belgrada 1722/26) See Mediterranean.

TORCELLO.

Arrived Batoum with 5,000 tons gas oil.
(Varna 1245/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CHARLES PRATT. (torpedoed 21/12.)

(Panamanian, 8982 tons) Boat with 20 men ex CHARLES PRATT rescued position 008° N., 014° 15'W., at 1500/25. Another boat with 20 men adrift within radius of 20 miles. PICT is to search. (C.in C. S.A. 0216/26 to F.O.Force M., DORSETSHIRE, BULOLO).

CHARLES PRATT torpedoed by U/Boat 1455/21 in position 008° 26'N., 016 °50'W. Ship possibly same still afloat and on fire 006° 40' N., 014 (?16')W 24th/12.
(?21')
(?26')
(C.in C. S.A. 1129N/26 to Adty).

The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey announces (says a Reuter message from New York) that its tanker CHARLES PRATT bas been "sunk" with the loss of 22 American lives. Twenty of the crew were saved. The tanker was flying the flag of the Panama Transport Company, which is a subsidiary of the Standard Oil. No details of the sinking are given. The CHARLES PRATT was a twin-crew ship of 8,982 tons built in 1916 at Newport News. (The Times, 28/12/40).

Cancel my 1804/25. (overdue shipping) (? 1806 intended). Panamanian ship CHARLES PRATT sunk by U/Boat in position 8° 26' North 16° 50'West at 1455/12/21. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1747/26).

ARACATACA (torpedoed 29/11).

Your 1933/24 ARACATACA was hit with 2 torpedoes at 2130/29/11. Ship abandoned immediately but known to be still afloat at 2400. Although visinility good nothing further seen by survivors except quantity of cork slabs next morning believed to come from ship's insulation. W/T distress messages were sent in accordance with regulations. Believed all passengers and crew left ship in 4 boats. Confidential books were not destroyed. Survivors were picked up 70 miles E.N.E. of positions ship torpedoed. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1815/26 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

WAIOTIRA

(British, 12823 tons). Following has been read. SSSS 58 12 N., 17 35 W. WAIOTIRA torpedoed.
(Lyness, T.O.R. 1905/26).

Proceed to position 058° 12' N., 017° 25' W. WAIOTIRA torpedoed at 1907.
(C.in C. W.A., 1916/26 to VENOMOUS).

Request you will sail tug SEAMAN with all despatch to assistance of s.s. WAIOTIRA in position 58° 12' N. 17° 25' W. at 1907 today. Tug SUPERMAN is also being sent from Stornoway.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1927/26, to N.O.I.C. Oban).

Request you will sail tug SUPERMAN with all despatch to assistance of WAIOTIRA in position 58° 12' N., 17° 25' W. at 1907 today. Tug SEAMAN is also being sent from Oban. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1928/26 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

Detach one destroyer to assistance of WAIOTIRA torpedoed in position 58° 12' N. 17° 25' W. at 1905/26.
(C.in C. H.F., 2141/26 to REPULSE).

Am standing by GBJB (Signal letters undecypherable, Presumably WAIOTIRA referred to in C.in C. Home Fleet's 2141/26). ( ) in position 058° 05' N. 017° 10' W. as requested by REPULSE. Ship was hit by torpedo. Propellor out of action. Salvage by ? a tug possible. Sent out life boat missing. Remainder on board. (NASHONA, 2222/26 to Admty.)

Cancel my 1916/26. (WAIOTIRA torpedoed - position). Proceed in execution of previous orders. (C.in C. W.A. 2230/26 to VENOMOUS).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1223. D.F., probable U/B 59.30 N., 15.17 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1310/26).

Gironde. My 1024/18. TUNA may adjust her position to intercept U Boats reported to be making Gironde but when not so engaged is to remain near the patrol line ordered. (V.A.S., 1456/26 to S.2.)

My 2324/18. Position may be adjusted to intercept U-Boats reported to be making Gironde but when not so engaged you are to course near patrol line ordered. (Capt. S.2. 1817/26 to TUNA).

1939/26. CLAN MATHESON reports sighting periscope S/M at 1830 G.M.T./26 in position 000° 10' South 008° 30' West. (C.in C. S.A. 2317/26, to DELHI).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 possibly in Madeira area.
2 near or to eastward of Azores.
1 arriving Gironde p.m. today.
1 about 45° - 46° N. 5° - 6° W. bound for Gironde
4 more probably following.
2 in N.W. Approaches possibly between 53° N. and 55° N. 16° W. and 18° W.

German.
1 off Freetown.
1 estimated 25th near 43° N. 25° W. is doubted.
1 between 57° N. and 59° N. 17° W. and 20° W.
1 attacked EVERLEIGH 1400/25 near 59° N. 21° W.
2 between 57° N. and 59° N. near 20° W. one of which may have left for home.
1 may arrive in Norwegian waters today. (D.D.I.C. 1252/26).

Submarines Attacked.

SARASTONE, 1559/22. Master of SARASTONE reports he was in action with Submarine of unknown nationality 1559/22 041° 18' N. 015° 14' W. Hit submarine twice in about same position abaft conning tower under after gun, when last seen 1700 submarine stopped with smoke pouring from stern and up by bow. As SARASTONE could only steam at 5 knots owing to boiler trouble and had only seven shells left she broke off action and proceeded to Lisbon for boiler repairs. She was not hit. Full report follows. (Lisbon, 2001/26, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Between 0310 and 0641 this morning while passing between Dungeness and the South Foreland Convoy C.E.20 was shelled by Enemy Coastal Batteries which fired 200 to 250 rounds. All, however, fell in the sea and only the M/S Trawlers BLACKTHORN and DEODAR received some slight damage.
3 M/L's and one A/C carrying Flares were patrolling last night to the Eastward of Q.Z.S. 30 from the latitude of Aldeburgh, and this operation is to be repeated tonight from 2000 until 2230 with one A/C carrying Flares and a second carrying Bombs. A Destroyer Patrol off Ushant is also to be carried out tonight with the object of destroying any Enemy Vessels returning to Brest from the Westward.

British Air Activity.

Several additional Patrols were flown this morning; and the Iceland Faroes Passage is to be patrolled daily by A/C from tomorrow until the 31st inclusive 4 Skuas from Hatston attacked M/V's and Warehouses in a surprise attack on Jaugesund and Rovoer Island this morning, certainly hitting one M/V and possibly another and doing other damage. Enemy S/M's at Bordeaux and Lorient were also again attacked during last night.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 1010 this morning Convoy ARENA was attacked off Clacton by one A/C. 3 heavy H.E. Bombs were dropped and an Oiler in the Convoy was straddled; but no damage was done. At 2000 this evening a Bomb fell in the Victualling Yard at Deptford, wrecking the front of the Chocolate Store and doing other damage. Hostile Patrols were maintained during today in the Straits of Dover, and R/C Flights were plotted to the Thames Estuary and off the Isle of Wight.

Mining.

At Liverpool the Isle of Man Steamer VICTORIA was mined at 1540 this afternoon while 8 miles S.W. of the Bar Light Vessel, but was towed back to harbour; and in the newly-changed position of the Thames Gateway at a spot which over 40 Ships had crossed during the forenoon the s.s. ARABY in Convoy was mined at 1445.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

CONVOY W.S.5A and RAIDER

North Atlantic.

The RENOWN and ARK ROYAL (Force H) were on the way to meet EMPIRE TROOPER.

S.L. 59 (Sierra Leone Convoy, homeward) at 0115 was in 42° 44' N. 21° 29' W. (Some 120 miles E. of position where BERWICK met raider on 25/0930.

The SHEFFIELD and 7 destroyers (Force H) were continuing to 37°N. 16° W. (300 miles W. of Capt St. Vincent) to join Force K (0203).

The JONQUIL, CLEMATIS, GERANIUM (convoy escort) were ordered by S.O. Force K to Ponta Delgada (San Miguel, Azores) to fuel. They arrived at 11.30.

At 8 a.m. the CYCLAMEN with EMPIRE TROOPER was reported in 41° N. 22° 9'W. (some 270 miles from Ponta Delgada.)

S.O. Force H reported that OPERATION "EXCESS" must be postponed for a day.

At 1150 Force H was in 40° 12 N. 17° 40' W. that is, on route of convoy to their rendez vous.

At 1411 the BERWICK was in 37° 7' N. 15° 40' W. near Convoy rendezvous searching to North and North West. The three ships of Gibraltar convoy (CLAN MACDONALD, EMPIRE SONG and NORTHERN PRINCE), were proceeding to Gibraltar escorted by ARGUS and 6 destroyers.
The EMPIRE TROOPER was making her way slowly eastbound at about 6 knots.
The visibility was poor (1 to 3 miles) and S.O. Force K (FORMIDABLE) had sighted nothing.
At 1849 he signalled that convoy, if not at rendezvous by 0800/28, had probably acted in accordance with general instructions (i.e. to disperse and proceed to destination).
He asked for convoy to be ordered by broadcast to be at 23° 20'N. 20° 10'W. at noon/30
The EMPIRE TROOPER was ordered to proceed to Ponta Delgada.
The CYCLAMEN was with her and BONAVENTURE and DERBYSHIRE was on their way to join her, but the former had to proceed to Gibraltar to fuel.

/ By 7.30 p.m. ....

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.3.5A and Raider

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

By 7.30 p.m. the SHEFFIELD had picked up two more ships (CITY OF CANTERBURY and ESSEX)

(At midnight the EMPIRE TROOPER was some 240 miles from Ponta Delgada; five other ships had been collected.

The RENOWN and ARK ROYAL were searching for the remainder to North West of rendezvous.

The FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK were proceeding to the rendezvous to search to southwest.

FURIOUS and 2 destroyers were on way to Gibraltar to fuel. ARGUS, DUNEDIN, 6 destroyers with 3 transports for Gibraltar were on way to Gibraltar.

The SHEFFIELD with two transports were waiting at the rendezvous.

BONAVENTURE with prisoners from German S.S. BADEN was on way to Gibraltar. The visibility was poor. The sea was calm.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. SITUATION REPORT. 27.12.1940. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Vichy French.

Operation "Ration". At 1445/27 the French armed trawler L'AJACCIENE passed Gibraltar west to east escorting 4 French merchant ships, but no force was available for interception.

North Atlantic.

TRIDENT, attack on Panama ship. At 0800 G.M.T./27, a submarine (later known to be H.M.S. TRIDENT) attacked a Panamanian steamship off the harbour of Ponta Delgada, but the torpedoes missed and exploded on shore.

South Atlantic.

Operations Against Raiders. Commenting on A.C.N.B's 0830/11/12, in which convoys were preferred to hunting raiders, C.in C. South Atlantic says that the modified system of convoy suggested would involve more ships than are normally available on his station. In general, the principle followed has been to provide cover on the trade routes where attack is most likely.

Mediterranean.

TERROR H.M.S. TERROR was bombed by 10 enemy A/C during an attack on Sollum yesterday, 26/12, without damage or casualties.

East Indies.

Troop Convoys. Convoy B.N.12 (EGRA, TAKLIWA, VARSOVA) with troops and stores for Middle East, left Bombay this morning escorted by LEANDER. Convoy B.S.11½ (CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, DUNERA, ETHIOPIA, CITY OF FLORENCE), escorted by CLIVE, is due at Port Sudan on 30/12.

German Merchant Ships.

ACHILLES left Vigo shortly before midnight last night.

MOST SECRET.

17. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

H/V to be examined at Skopen Fiord.

Swedish REMIAREN should be boarded and examined at Skopen Fiord but allowed to proceed if nothing suspicious discovered.(D.O. D.H. 1223/27.)

Defence of U.K.

Langstone Harbour Burning of Oil as Invasion Defence.

A.L. H/LDO1497/40 of 16/11/40 and Portsmouth 6442/0115C(6/11) dated 7th December 1940. Dockyard work on Langstone Harbour Experimental Installation was completed on 17/12, but commencement of experiments was then delayed by carrying away of buoying and securing arrangement for underwater pipe lines. Experiments commenced on 23/12. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1067/27 to Adty.)

DELUGE.

At 1130/27. (D.C.1155/27).
At 2330/27. (D.C.2351/27).

Dover. Withdrawal of Guns.

To equip an A.M.C. with long range guns, it has become necessary immediately to withdraw six of the twelve 5.5" guns temporarily mounted in the Dover Area. A corresponding number of 6" Mark VII guns on P.III mountings could be made available for Army use. It is estimated that delivery of these could start in about 14 days.
Request your concurrence and remarks. (D. of L.D. 1828/27 to War Office.)
Your 1828/27. Concur. Will release 4 Folkestone 2 St. Margarets. Intend to replace with 6 inch Mark 7.(Hofors 2245/4 to Adty.)

Dungeness M.N.B.D.O. Battery.

My 1538/24, 1812/11, and your 1615/13.
M.N.B.D.O. Dungeness Battery complete with all equipment as laid down in War Equipment Tables is to be turned over temporarily to Home Forces until relief by R.M.Personnel of M.N.B.D.O.(2).
2. Request you will report number of Fire Control personnel from M.N.B.D.O.(2) who could be made available for this battery.(D. of L.D. 1403/27 to O.C.R.M. Group, M.N.B.D.O.)

Movements.

CILICIA.

Sailed 0520/27. G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0330/27.)

/WHITSHED....

MOST SECRET.

17. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Contd.

Movements.

WILDFIRE. My 1836/23. Sailing postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 0924/27.)
My 0934/27. Sailing postponed further 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 2044/27.)

WOLVERINE. WYCH. } Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0927/27.)

QUORN, WOLFERTON. Arrived 0920 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/27.)

ST. HAWKS. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Newport 1000/27.)

WINTERTON. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1034/27.)

BIRMINGHAM. Arrived Scapa 1130 (A.C.C.S. 1144/27.)

BATH. Sailed for Port Z.A.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1043/27.)

AGATE, KIPLING, ACHATES. Arrived 1114. (C. in C. W.A. 1446/27.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.C.S. 1530/27.)

HAIAD. Arrived with F.O.C.S. 15 at Scapa. (A.C.C.S. 1552/27.)

HOLBOROUGH, HIPLEY. Arrived Plymouth 1636. (C in C. W.A. 1710/27.)

BRIGHTON. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1715/27.)

VETERAN. Arrived. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1835/27.)

VANQUISHER, WITCHHALL. Arrived, fuelled, sailed.(Capt.D. Londonderry 1835/27.)

VISCRD. Sailed for Rosyth. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1835/27.)

CALIFORNIA. Take Areas E.2. and F.2.(F.O.C.H.F. 2210/27 to Western Patrol.)

/CURACOA.....

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

CURACOA — Arrived Scapa 2303/27 (A.C.O.S. 2305/27)

KASHMIR
JERSEY
JUPITER — Sailed Plymouth 1750 (C. in C., W.A., 0016/28)

Operations

Convoy C.E. 20 Shelled — From 0310 to 0641 Enemy Batteries fired between 200 and 250 rounds at C.E. 20 between Dungeness and South Foreland. All falling in the sea. Convoy passed Dover at about 0600. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 1019/27)

BLACKTHORN
DEODAR
Damaged — BLACKTHORN and DEODAR (M/S Trawlers) damaged by shell fire during passage of C.E. 20. (C. in C., Nore 1650/28 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operation P.V. 1. — Carry out tonight between 2000 and 2130. One A/C with flares and one with bombs. (C. in C., Nore, 1210/27)
My 1210. Operation P.V.1. will continue till 2230. (C. in C., Nore, 1941/27)

Western Channel. Interception of M/V's — Four small steamers observed South of Ushant at 1530 may proceed up Channel tonight.
2. Proceed towards 49° 10' N., 03° 20' W and thence sweep to Westward to intercept steamers.
3. If no contact by longitude of Ushant return towards Plymouth arriving 1030/28. (C. in C., W.A., 1714/27 to KASHMIR)

Proceed with despatch towards 48° 30' N., 5° 45' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1911/27 to KASHMIR)

My 1911. There are indications of enemy activity which may mean the return of ships to Brest from Westward.
(2) Object is interception and destruction of ships returning to Brest.
(3) Patrol between A. 48° 30' N., 05° 45' W and B 48° 00' N., 05° 45' W.
(4) Discontinue patrol in time to arrive in 180° Lizard 20 by 0830/28 thence to Plymouth. Fighter protection will be arranged from 0830/28. (C. in C., W.A., 1940/27 to KASHMIR)

Iceland Faroes Passage — My 1214/23. Intend to proceed in NELSON tomorrow to patrol to Eastward of Iceland Faroes Passage. (C. in C., H.F. 1936/27 to Admty.

/(1).....

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. Contd.

Iceland Faroes Passage.

(1) Intend to proceed in H.M.S. NELSON with four destroyers at 1300 tomorrow.
(2) Force will pass through 059° 05' 003° 55' W speed of advance 16 knots and thence along meridian 003° 55' W to patrol to eastward of Iceland Faroes passage.
(3) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange A/S air escort during daylight 28th, and air arm co-operation during patrol. Code word LABEL.
(4) Force will return to Scapa D.M./S1.
(5) Admiralty pass to HQCC.
(C. in C. H.F. 2301/27 to A.C.O.S.)

Submarines.

SUNFISH.

Leaves Blyth 1100, unescorted to Gap A, thence to Patrol. (C. in C. Rosyth 0828/27, (S.6.1100/27) Sailed (S.6.1101/27) Sailed (S.6. 1101/27.)

L. 26.

Exercising with Escort Vessels from 1130 to 1500 about 5 miles East of May Island. (C. in C. Rosyth 0828/27.)

TAKU.

Arrived Troon. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1050/27.)

O.23.
SEALION.

There are indications that enemy force may move south along Norwegian Coast. Netherlands submarine O.23 patrol in the vicinity of 060° 10' N. 004° 10' E. SEALION if not at present operating in Fro Haye proceed to vicinity of 060° N. 004° 28' E. (V.A.S. 1456/27.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1610/27.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/28. (V.A.S. 1614/27.)

L.13.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1648/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Additional Patrol ordered today: BERT, HORNLI, STAND.(C. in C. Rosyth 0732/27.)
2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0900 to patrol to Flamborough Head and return.(C. in C. Rosyth 0746/27.) My 1744/24. Patrol MUGGY is not being flown today.(C. in C. Rosyth 0810/27.)

My 1851/13. Intend sailing 8 Skuas at 1030 today. (Hatston 0945/27 to A.C.C.H.)

Additional Patrol S.A.S. being flown today in modified form tracks K to K. Also 2 Blenheims will patrol Fair Isle Channel between 1045 and 1148.(C. in C. Rosyth 1006/27.)

My 1744/24. Patrol MUGGY will not be flown tomorrow following cross over by Sunderland A/C being substituted throughout daylight. 65° 30' N 9° 24' W.,62° 30' 7° 00' W.64° 00' N.6° 24'W.,64°00'N 7° 00' W.(C. in C. Rosyth 1540/27 to C. in C. H.F.)
One Sunderland will carry out a Line Patrol daily from 28/12 till 31/12 inclusive between 62° 7'N.7° 40'W. and 64° 14' N. 14° 58' W. (C. in C. Rosyth 1700/27 to C. in C. H.F.

Patrols described in my 1540/27 and my 1700/27 will not be flown tomorrow Saturday but the following search will be substituted. Sunderland leaves Sullom Voe at 0900/28 for Videro (63° 22' N.06° 30'W. Then on a course 011° to 67° N, thence to Sullom Voe direct.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2240/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

Lorient.

35 and 59 Sqdns., will attack tonight S/M's and Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C.1947/27 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Bordeaux.

217 Sqdn. will attack tonight S/M's in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1948/27 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Fort William.

Suggest Light on Corran Point be extinguished as affording a mark for enemy A/C. (R.A.C.F. 1331/27 to Adty.)

Norwegian Coast M/V's and Jetties attacked.

My 0945/27. One Skua returned early with defect. Three Skuas attacked M.V. of 4,000 tons in basin on Risoy Island Haugesund. One certain hit with 40 lbs.

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Norwegian Coast M/V's and Jetties attacked.

British Air Activity. Contd.
M.E. Bomb. Possible one hit with 250 lbs. G.P. bomb and certain damage from near mission jetty. Ship set on fire and direct hits scored on two adjacent warehouses. Fourth Skua attacked 1500 ton MV at Garpeskjeer Jetty. Bombs hit warehouse on jetty alongside. Surprise was achieved but more heavy and light A A was encountered than formerly. One Pom Pom silenced by M.G. fire. New construction on Rovoer Island also machine gunned thought to be possible RD/F Station. No other shipping soon All aircraft returned safely. (Hatston 1723/27 to A.C.O.S.)

Convoy ARENA.

Enemy Air Activity.
Enemy bombing Convoy in 51° 45' N.1° 28' E. (VALOROUS 1010/27.)Single A/C attack. Dropped 3 heavy Bombs, straddling an Oiler.(VERSATILE 1015/27). One Dornier 17. 2 delayed-action Bombs. No damage.(VALOROUS 1019/27.) One A/C attacking Convoy in 51° 42' N. 1° 22'E. (VALOROUS 1028/27.) Fighters being sent (More W/T. 1030/27.)

Oban.

My 1935/24. A/S Trawler SOUTHERN STAR reports she was attacked by A/C at 1730/23 while on Firth of Lorne Patrol, and that 5 A/C took part in subsequent attack on Oban. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1140/27 to Adty.)

GLEN AVON.

Paddle Minesweeper. Being attacked by A/C in 55° 7' N.0° 45' W.(GLEN AVON 1350/27 to Wick Radio.) No damage (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1224/28.)

Convoy AGENT.

Being shadowed by one A/C in 52°N. 1° 45' E.(GUILLEMOT 1724/27.)

Deptford.

A large H.E. Bomb fell at about 2000/27 outside front of Chocolate Store. Front of Store wrecked and some other damage. (Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford 1015/28.)

Mining.

Q.Z.S.105 and 190.

Swept from A Buoy to Sandhead Buoy 75% from 0800/26 to 0800/27. One sweep cut by Explosive Cutter. No Mines. (V.A. Dover 1020/27.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames Gate. Change of Position.	My 1918/26. Removal of Thames Gate to new position completed. New position as follows. Sweeping of this area completed with negative result. (Cdre. Sheerness 1256/27.)
ARABY.	(British, 4936 Tons) Mined at 1443/27, in the Southern Thames, Gateway, Nore. 6 or 7 ships had passed over same spot immediately ahead of ARABY, and about 35 ships of which 7 were Motor-Vessels had passed over it during this forenoon. The spot had been swept several times during the forenoon by M.L. and S.A. Sweepers. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1844/27.)
VICTORIA.	(Isle of Man Steam Packet, 1641 Tons) Mined at 1540/27 in 290° Bar Light Vessel 8 miles. Passengers and Mail being landed. Ship in tow back to harbour. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1813/27.)
Firth of Forth.	At 1258/27 a Mine was detonated by M/S Trawler in 56° 1' 12" N. 3° 5' W. (C. in C. Rosyth 1611/27.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast.	W/T Traffic suggests a movement to the Southward along the Norwegian Coast in the near future. (D.D.I.C. 1814/27.)
E-Boat.	Possible E.Boat reported near Position Z, steering N.E., at 1830 (C. in C. Nore 1869/27 and 1929/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

H.T.B.29. Sank at 2330/26 after fouling Boom. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0127/27.)

WOHLSDRECHT. (Dutch, 4666 Tons) Leaking badly in engine-room in 51° 40' N. 1° 18' E. One Tug from Harwich and one from Sheerness to proceed immediately and tow to Southend. (C. in C. Nore 1161/27.) Ship proceeding to Convoy. Will probably get in without help. (VERSATILE 1156/27 to C. in C. Nore.) Tug not required.(VERSATILE 1318/27 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.)

PROFICIENT. (H.M.Drifter.) (Stranded 20/12 on Whitby Sands) Salvage Contractor reports that, owing to very heavy seas, Ship is a Total Loss. (F.O.I.C.Tyne 1833/27.)

VANSITTART. Delayed at Plymouth with engine defects. (C. in C. W.A. 1923/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

H X 99.

My 1426/26. PENRITH CASTLE carrying munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0926/27.)

C.E.20.

Shelled by enemy batteries 0310 to 0641, all falling in sea. (V.A. Dover, 1019/27.) Arrived Southend. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1501/27.)

E. N. 47.

My 2014/26. Amend to read 27 ships, none for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1028/27.)

S.C.17.

Date and route. MALOJA returns to Halifax. (D. & D., 1126/27.)

S.C.18.

Your 1317/26. Date and route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax to Admty 1150/27.)

O.B.O. 265.

Sailed 0400/27. Escort VISCOUNT, 10 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1235/27. to Admty. Estimate will be passing 6 miles to southward of H.X.96 (position about 2345 tonight. (C. in C.W.A. 1513/27, to WHITEHALL, etc.)

S.L.62.

Your 1757/24. R.V. and date. (N.C.S.O. Freetown to Admty. 12 x 3/27.)

S.L.58.
H.X.95)

Your 1914/16. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1406/27 1535/27 to Admty.)

H.G.49.

My 1532/26. Additions to list. (A.C. North Atlantic, 1414/27.)

F.N.68.

4 ships and 17 trawlers joining (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1706/27.) Harwich to Blyth, s.s. LIGHTFOOT S/C. (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1506/27.)

F.S.72.

Sailed 1400/27. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1515/27). 1 ship and 3 H.M.T's from Humber joining (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1706/27) List 1629/27.)

H.X.97.

Route from R.V. (D.T.D. 1545/27 to C. in C. W.A.

O.B.263.

Route. (D. T. D. 1553/27. to N.C.S.O's.)

O.B.264.

Disperse in 22° W. (C. in C. W.A, 1712/27 to Odre, MATADIAN.)

O.B.M.266.

1704/27. ROSEMARY. One. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1715/27.)

E.N.46.

All 16 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1535/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys. Contd. Shipping.

S.L.58. Extract from sailing telegram as amended by Admty.(D.T.D, 1850/27.)

S.C.16. Meet. (C. in C.W.A, 2020/27, to ACTIVE, ANTELOPE, GEORGETOWN, HEATHER, PICOTEE.)

F.S.70. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames. 2302/27.)

F.S.69. Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 2313/27.)

F.S.73. Sailed 2300/17. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2358/27.)

O.B.C.265. 2343/26/12/40 sailed O B C 265 8½ knots Escort WINCHELSEA.(List.)N.C.S.O.Clyde 0010/27.

S.L.58. Your 0005/27. ANEMONE reports Liverpool Section of S.L.58 will be in position 053° 32'N004° 46' W. at 0900/27. (C. in C.W.A. 0211/27 to LEEDS UNITED.)

H.X 95 B.M. LOCH DEE, (BRAGANZA), MANGKALIHAT, H X 95 B M arrived Barry Roads. Escort HUDDERSFIELD TOWN sailed in execution of previous orders. (N.O.I.C. Barry,0935/27.

F.N. and F.M. Forecast of convoy sailings 31/12 to 5/1/41 and escorts.(C. in C. Rosyth, 1017/27.)

E.N.48. Sailed at 0830/28 for exercises and act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N.48 sailing at 2330/28. After passing Dunnet head proceed to Scapa

W.N.61. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail JASON to join W.N.61 due Duncansby Head 1330/31. code word for E.N.48' Paddle and for W.N.61' Rusty.(C. in C. Rosyth, 1031/27 to JASON.)

W.N.59. W.N. 59 expected time of arrival Kinnaird Head 2100/27.(Commodore W.N. 59 1050/27 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

H.X.97. F.O.C. Northern Patrol's 1250/14. After passing 23 deg. West leave H X 97 (route to Clyde.)(C. in C.W.A.,1120/27, to WORCESTERSHIRE.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoy.

S.L.S. 61.	Your 1659/24, and your 0316/25. S L S 61. rendezvous in position Y 053° 40' 016° 30'W, 0845 G.M.T.
H. G. 50.	21/1/41, joining H.G. 50 at X 038° N. 020° W, 0900 G.M.T. on 13/1/41. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1219/27 to Admty.)
	Part company with convoy H X 97 at dusk 29/12 and return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 2254/27, to REPULSE.)
O.G.48.	Sail TIERCEL to Gibraltar in convoy O G 48. Rendezvous 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1540/30. (C. in C. W.A. 1128/27 to WESTERN ISLES.)
O.G.48.	Ref. 1128/27. From C. in C. W. TIERCIEL arriving Greenock 1000/28 require to rerange. 80 tons Scotch coal. Request Admiralty be asked to instruct Lieut. Hartnell to join TIERCIEL at Greenock 29/12 or another officer be appointed to sail in TIERCIEL. (WESTERN ISLES, 1730/27.)
S.M.V.'s.	N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 2337/26. (Proposed sailing of 5 M/VS and request for escort) C. in C. W.A. 1208/27 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)(No escort available.)
	My 2326/26 and your 1202/27, sailed unescorted (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1707/27.) and 1739/27.)
C.W.21.	Intend to sail C.W. 21 from Southend at 1130/30. (Timetable at 7 knots.) Care is to be taken to keep convoy well closed up between Sand Head buoy and position 'C' M.L's detailed are to be towed between Sheerness and North Goodwin and whilst in toe engines and dynamos are not to be used. (C. in C. Nore 1228/27.)
	Not met. A.M.C. MARSDALE also searching Panamanian ship TURUL was sighted hove to at 1600/26 in position 051° 34' N. 021° 30'W. My estimated position 053° 35' north 016° 32' West. (WELLINGTON 1300/27 to C. in C. W. A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMAND.

Shipping.

H.M. 47. Buchan Ness 1333/27 B.S.T. Speed made good 6 knots. (PAYNTER 1340/27.)

C.G. 48. Two Sloops are to sail with C.G.48, one is to leave convoy in time to arrive Gibraltar and bring back H.G.50 sailing January 11th. The other is to proceed to Gibraltar with Convoy and bring back H.G.51 sailing January 21st. (C. in C. W.A. 1440/27. to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

H.M.S°. CURACOA proceed as necessary 28/12 to meet in Pentland Firth convoy W N 60, code word "Chitty" BERKSHIRE A/A. escort WOLFHOUND, expected Duncansby Head 1100/28 but probably early. Part company after dark and return to Scapa. (R.A.D. A.F., 1532/27 to CURACOA etc.)

3 M.V's. Sailed at 1630/27 for Clyde for D/G repairs, PACIFIC GROVE, for Ayr for repairs, SPERO (Nor.). For Ardrossan for repair FLYNDERBORG (Br.). Escort GAVOTTE. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1720/27.)

TIERCEL. Sailed Tobermory 27/12. TIERCEL Greenock 0900/28. (WESTERN ISLES, 1910/27.)

Troop Convoys. W. H. & B. FORESIGHT and FEARLESS will be required to sail as part of A/S escort for W.S.5 B They should accompany the convoy as far as endurance permits, afterwards proceeding to Gibraltar to rejoin Force H. After completion of defects they should remain under the command of C. in C. Western Approaches until sailed. (1613/27. to C. in C. W.A. H.F. etc.) (D.O.D.(H).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40)

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL.

Your 2350/26. Am proceeding with RENOWN and ARK ROYAL unscreened to locate EMPIRE TROOPER.
(S.O. Force H., 0203/27, to Admty.)

Am proceeding with RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to search for EMPIRE TROOPER. SHEFFIELD proceeding with 7 destroyers as in paragraph one of my 1721/26. Take charge of operation. (S.O. Force H., 0258/27 to S.O. Force K).

Corvettes

Your 0830/25. (No trace in War Registry) Can you give any further information regarding condition of EMPIRE TROOPER. Where are Corvettes?
(S.O. Force H, 0256/27, to CLEMATIS).

EMPIRE TROOPER, condition.

EMPIRE TROOPER reports being hit in number 1 hold. Seen through mist 1 hour later steaming 13 knots believe damage not serious. Unable to locate her or Corvettes owing to bad visibility. Shells fired at CLEMATIS were 6-inch or less. Arrive at intermediate port 0800 today.
(CLEMATIS 0530/27, to S.O. Force H).

Corvettes to Ponta Delgada.

Proceed to Ponta Delgada and fuel with despatch than at maximum speed to overtake convoy and report position on 29/12.
(S.O. Force K, 0745/27, to JONQUIL, CLEMATIS, GERANIUM).

EMPIRE TROOPER position.

Request you ask EMPIRE TROOPER to report her postion from "ROBIN" to Admiralty.
(S.O. Force H, 0805/27 to Admty.)

Report your position relative to "ROBIN"
(D.O.D.(F) 1014/27, to EMPIRE TROOPER).

DORSETSHIRE

Departure 0630/27/12 DORSETSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. S.A's 2337/26/12
(Refers to Admiralty 2148/26).
(S.O.I. Freetown 0915N/27.)

Convoy "Excess".

Admty. 1810/25 para. 4. As it may be difficult for S.O. Force H to forecast his movements at present suggest convoy "EXCESS" be ordered into Gibraltar until such time as S.O. Force H is prepared to break W/T silence to appoint convenient date for D one day.
I have no objections to postponement but early decision is essential for movements in Eastern Mediterranean already commenced to be adjusted. (C.in C. Med., 0957/27 to Admty.).

/ Assuming that ....

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).
(Contd.)

Assuming that you can break W/T silence request you will reply to C.in C. Med.'s 0957/27.
(D.O.D.(F) 1331/27 to S.O. Force H).

Your 0957/27 not to DUNEDIN, BONAVENTURE, ARGUS, SHEFFIELD. Operation "EXCESS" must be postponed one day. Possibly (? more) depending on situation.
(S.O. Force H, 1532/27 to C.in C. Med.)

DERBYSHIRE — My position course and speed at 1000 were 043° 14' N. 024° 00' W. 348° 14 knots. Position by dead reckoning. Visibility ½ mile. (DERBYSHIRE 1005/27 to S.O. Force H).

EMPIRE TROOPER situation — Standing by EMPIRE TROOPER, holed numbers one and four hatches, situation serious depending on number two bulkhead. 0800/27.
041° 00' 022° 09' 138° four. A/S gear and assembly transmitter out of action.
(CYCLAMEN, 1015/27 to Admty.)

Corvettes, Ponta Delgada. — Request immediate report of arrival of corvettes CYCLAMEN, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, GERANIUM if they put into Ponta Delgada.
(D.O.D. (F) 1035/27 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

CLEMATIS and JONQUIL arrived Ponta Delgada 1000 G.M.T. 27/12 GERANIUM arrived 1130 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1120/27).

DUNEDIN. — My 2101 Z/26 not to S.O. Force K and S.O. Force H. 1721/26. No change.
(DUNEDIN, 1059Z/27, to S.O. Force K).

FURIOUS
ARGUS
DUNEDIN
BERWICK
SHEFFIELD — Detach FURIOUS, ARGUS, DUNEDIN and five M.T. ships when collected to Gibraltar with the necessary destroyers. BERWICK, SHEFFIELD and the other destroyers remain at rendezvous till Force K arrives.
(S.O. Force K 1228/27 to BERWICK).

DERBYSHIRE
RENOWN
ARK ROYAL — In view of CLEMATIS's 0530/27 propose DERBYSHIRE remain in the vicinity of "LARK" until whereabouts of EMPIRE TROOPER established. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL return to Gibraltar covering convoy.
Weather conditions vicinity "LARK" reported unsuitable for air reconnaissance.
My position 040° 12' N. 017° 40' W.
(S.O. Force H, 1150A/27 to Admty.)

Your 1150. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL should remain in area until situation regarding EMPIRE TROOPER is cleared up or as long as endurance of screen allows.
(V.C.N.S. 1402/27 to S.O. Force H).

/ I am assuming ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40)
(Contd.)

I am assuming your 1402/27 direct. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to rejoin Destroyer screen in the vicinity 057° N. 016° W. and continue round up and remainder convoy. Am proceeding accordingly.
(S.O. Force H 1555/27 to Admty.)

FURIOUS, no transport in company.

S.O. Force H's 1721/26 (Report of merchant ships in company) nil.
(FURIOUS, 1200/27, to S.O. Force K).

BERWICK, FURIOUS, ARGUS, SHEFFIELD.

My position is 037° 07' N. 015° 40' W. FURIOUS Capt. (D) 8 and two destroyers proceeding to Gibraltar at best possible speed to refuel and rejoin convoy. ARGUS, three ships of Gibraltar convoy, Capt.(D) 13, and six destroyers proceeding to Gibraltar at ten knots. Alldestroyers have to return to oil. SHEFFIELD remaining in this vicinity to pick up stragglers. BERWICK searching to North and North-West returning 0700 zone plus one tomorrow Saturday.
(BERWICK, 1411/27 to S.O. Force H).

BONAVENTURE S.L.59.

BONAVENTURE reported S.L.59 in position 42° 44' N. 21° 29' W. at 0115 B.S.T. today Friday. (C.in C. W.A. 1438/27 to KENYA).

FURIOUS

Expect to arrive boom entrance 1430/28 FAULKNOR and FIREDRAKE in company. Require 2800 tons fuel. Request escort to enable FURIOUS to rejoin W.S.5A immediately on completion. (FURIOUS, 1455/27 to F.O.C.N.A.).

EMPIRE TROOPER.

My Bearing 321° from "Robin" 520 miles. Holed by raider number one hold full of water, bulkhead holding water, trouble when steaming mean speed of 5 knots M.L.A. 142 degrees. Suggest send assistance to disembark men if necessary weather calm at present. (EMPIRE TROOPER, 1520/27 to Admty.)

FURIOUS.

Your 1126. SHEFFIELD detached. FURIOUS screened by FAULKNOR.
FIREDRAKE and FOXHOUND to Gibraltar for emergency fuelling with a view to rejoining W.S.5A as soon as possible for passage to Freetown.
Have sent FOXHOUND back.
Shall I (a) rejoin M.T. ships now or
(b) proceed Gibraltar and then rejoin as soon as possible.
My position course and speed are at 1600 Zone minus one - 036° 54' N. 015° 26' W. 098° 23.
(FURIOUS, 1624/27 to S.O. Force K).

/ Your 1624. ...

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).
(Contd.)

Your 1624. Proceed to Gibraltar.
(S.O. Force K 1626Z/27 to FURIOUS).

EMPIRE TROOPER

Proceed to EMPIRE TROOPER in position 040° 40' N. 021° 14' W. course 138° 5 knots.
(S.O. Force H, 1730A/27 BONAVENTURE, DERBYSHIRE.

Send two destroyers with (?best) endurance at 16 knots to assistance of EMPIRE TROOPER in position 040° 40' N. 021° 14' W. at 1800A, course 142° speed five knots.
(S.O. Force H, 1806A/27, to SHEFFIELD).

Proceeding in accordance with your 1730 A/27 at economical speed 15 knots with allows for no reserve of fuel. My position is 039° 47' N. 015° 41' West.
(BONAVENTURE, 1830A/27 to S.O. Force H).

My 1806/27 and 1730/27 not to SHEFFIELD. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL also to carry out air search dawn 28th to locate EMPIRE TROOPER. (S.O. Force H, 1835A/27, to Admty.)

Force K, situation of convoy.

My 2140/26. Visibility during daylight 27th one to 3 miles. No ship sighted by air search.
If convoy is not at 037° N. 016° W. by 0800/28 consider ships have acted in accordance with article 174 (F) of B R 136 (1).
Propose following action daily to avoid further W/T signalling.
(a) DORSETSHIRE to be on convoy route latitude 022° 30' N. by 06 (? Group omitted) /30, zigzagging across route collecting ships and meet Force K in latitude (?024°) 18' N. at 1800/30 turning South at this time if contact has not been made.
(b) Convoy to be ordered by broadcast to rendezvous in 023° 30' N. 020° 10' W. at noon/30.
From North corvettes to rendezvous at noon/30 as in (b) or follow at best speed.
(d) Force K will leave 037° N. 016° W. 0800/28 and follow convoy route at 15 knots.
(e) Request Admiralty issue instructions for FURIOUS rejoin convoy.
All times zone plus 1(one)
(S.O. Force K, 1849/27, to Admty. etc.)
(Reply: See Admty. 1116/28).

/ EMPIRE TROOPER ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).
(Contd.)

EMPIRE TROOPER to make Ponta Delgada.

Pass following to EMPIRE TROOPER.
Steer for Ponta Delgada in San Miguel Island as soon as weather permits.
Escort joining you.
Acknowledge.
(1 S.L. 1916/27 to CYCLAMEN)

Your 1916 received and passed.
(CYCLAMEN, 2000/27, to Admty.)

DUNEDIN, CITY OF CANTERBURY, ESSEX.

Have intercepted DUNEDIN and sent her to join ARGUS convoy. Have CITY OF CANTERBURY ESSEX in company. Rendezvousing with BERWICK position C at 0700 M/28.
(SHEFFIELD, 1953A/27, to S.O's Force H, Force K, BERWICK).

KENYA

KENYA is to join EMPIRE TROOPER. Her position at 1800/27 (correction 2253/27) 040° 40' N. 021° 14' W. course 142° speed 5 knots. EMPIRE TROOPER has been ordered to steer for Ponta Delgada as soon as weather permits. (1 S.L. 1955/27 to C.S.10).

Situation.

EMPIRE TROOPER was in position 41° 20' 21° 30' W. at 1520/27, steering 142° 5 knots. She has been ordered to Ponta Delgada as soon as weather permits.
2. CYCLAMEN is in company with EMPIRE TROOPER and BONAVENTURE and DERBYSHIRE are joining her.
3. KENYA, BERWICK, CYCLAMEN, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, GERANIUM are to join EMPIRE TROOPER and escort her to Ponta Delgada.
4. If BERWICK can remain with EMPIRE TROOPER, BONAVENTURE can be released for "EXCESS" as soon as BERWICK relieves her, otherwise BONAVENTURE is to remain with EMPIRE TROOPER.
5. If for safety reasons it is necessary to remove passengers from EMPIRE TROOPER this should be done, but noth otherwise.
6. CYCLAMEN cannot transmit by W/T except through EMPIRE TROOPER. (1 S.L. 2021/27, to S.O. Force H, S.O. Force K, C.S.10, BERWICK, CYCLAMEN, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, GERANIUM.)

BERWICK.

Your 2021/27, not to SHEFFIELD. My position course and speed are 039° 08" N. 015° 43" W. 272° eighteen knots, to join and remain with EMPIRE TROOPER at best speed with fuel available. Expect to meet her 1700Z/28.
(BERWICK, 2300/27 to Admiralty, S.O. Force H S.O. Force K, CYCLAMEN.)

/ BONAVENTURE ....

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

BONAVENTURE. Reference 2021/27 from Admiralty. Since your lack of fuel will not enable you to reach EMPIRE TROOPER before BERWICK, you are to proceed to Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H 2331A/27, to BONAVENTURE).

Corvettes. Sailed from Ponta Delgada at 2130 G.M.T. 27/12 CLEMATIS (corrupt group) JONQUIL and GERANIUM. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 2202/27).

EMPIRE TROOPER EMPIRE TROOPER 2000, 040° 12' 021° 13' (? 232 degs. or ?254 degs.) 6. (CYCLAMEN 2350/27 to BERWICK, DERBYSHIRE.).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Foreign Legion Movement.

French Legion sails in NEURALIA in W.S. five A. M.T. in FORT LAMY speed nine knots sailed independently due Capetown 8/1/41 for onward routeing. 1431/27.

MILFORD. DELHI. ASPHODEL. CALENDULA.

My 1129/26 CHARLES PRATT torpedoed by U-boat. If nothing is seen of derelict by 1700/27 proceed at that time to rendezvous with DELHI escorting TOURREG and CAP DES PALMES and act as A/S escort. Estimated position of DELHI (? at noon on) 30/12. 003° 45'N. 000° 40'W. routed as follows (i) 003° 50'N. 007° 42'w. (ii) 004° 28'N. 009° 22'W., speed of advance 7 knots. ASPHODEL and CALENDULA sail from Freetown a.m. 29/12. to rendezvous p.m. 6/1/41 and act as additional escort.
(C. in C. S.A. 1329N/27 to MILFORD-

Operation "Ration".

Gibraltar 1445/27 French armed trawler L'AJACCIENE Passed W. to E. escorting French ship LT. ST. LOUBERT BIE, COMPIEGNE, ELEA, VENDOME. No force available for interception see my 1346/25.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1548/27 to Admty).

RHONE and S/M SFAX reported torpedoed.

Your 1935/26. Confirmed. No British submarine has proceeded into Atlantic from Gibraltar. Naval Attache Madrid already informed on 20/12 and 26/12 that no British submarine was in this Area.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1608/27 to Admty).

Free French Movement, W. Africa.

My telegram M.12 of 23rd. French Liaison Missions established as follows:- (List of appointments).
(20 M.M. Brazzaville 0820/27 to W.O).

PRIMAUGUET. LAMOTTE PICQUET.

Your 0202/27 not to Admiralty. Fr. Cruiser PRIMAUGUET not at Saigon nor in Eastern waters. Rumour may be connected with sister ship Fr. Cruiser LAMOTTE PICQUET now in Saigon but there are no indications projected attack on Noumea which is considered unlikely in view of recent improvement our relations with Indo-China. Request Admiralty report position of Fr. Cruiser PRIMAUGUET.
(Capt. [illegible].S. Singapore 0951Z/27 to ACNB).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Submarine attack on Panama Ship.

Submarine attack Panamanian steamship name not yet ascertained off harbour at 0800 G.M.T./27. Torpedo missed and exploded on shore. Submarine was sighted by me one mile S. Eastward end of breakwater 0815 and at 0830 two miles south of breakwater still on the surface steering west. Further particulars forwarded in due course. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1012/27 to Admty) (H.S. Note:- Submarine was H.M.S. TRIDENT see 28/12).

Unknown submarine attacked Panama steamer near Ponta Delgada Azores a.m./27 with torpedo which exploded on shore (N.A. Lisbon 1747/27 to Admty).

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada reports submarine attacked Panamanian ship off Harbour 0800 G.M.T. 27/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1831/27 to S. and A. North Atlantic Stn).

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada reports submarine attacked Panamanian ship off harbour 0800 G.M.T. 27/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 2040/27 to TRIDENT).

Daily Summary Operations.

2 routine A.S. patrols.
(200 Group 1711/27 to Air Min).

Convoy "Excess".

Effort has been made to cover movement of convoy "Excess" through Mediterranean by suggesting to personnel embarked that convoy is proceeding via the Cape. Request you will take similar action in Gibraltar and let it be understood that reason for visit to Gibraltar is dispersal of escort on other duties.
(D.O.D.(F) 2341/27 to F.O.C.N.A).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

GUINE.
COLONIAL.

Your 1727/24 and your 1616/19. Assuning steamship GUINE takes approximately 330 passengers on 30/12 following will remain to take passage in steamship COLONIAL. (Numbers).
(C.in C. S.A. 0135N/27 to Consul Lisbon for N.C.S.O.)

CARNARVON CASTLE.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1543/21 and Adty's 1635/2[illegible] considered very desirable that CARNARVON CASTLE should refit in U.K. and that proposal 2(B) of N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1543/21 be adopted if ship can be made reasonably serviceable and efficient for passage. (Arguments).
(C.in C. S.A. 1121N/27 to Adty).

16th Auxiliary A/S Group.

Your 1304/29/11. A/S Whalers KOS 19 KOS 21, KOS 22, KOS 23, and SYVERN are to form the 16th. Auxiliary A/S Group and will operate under C.in C. Med. As soon as practicable after completion they are to be sailed for Alexandria without necessarily waiting for complete group.
(D.D.A/S.W. 1224/27 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

BRITISH PREMIER.

Overdue shipping. BRITISH PREMIER Capetown departure 10/12 due Freetown 25/12 has not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1848/27 to Adty).

W.S.5.A.

The following transports left U.K. 18/12 in convoy W.S.5.A. (10 ships).
The following M.T. ships also sailed in W.S.5.A. (7 ships).
ERNEBANK has since returned to U.K. for repairs. The following M.T. ships which left U.K. 19/12 in Convoy O.B.261 are expected to join W.S.5.A. at Freetown (3 ships).
MANSEER, which also sailed in O.B.Convoy to join W.S.5.A. at Freetown, has since returned to U.K. to adjust cargo stowage.
The following transfers of personnel will be effected en route.
Port Sudan is the destination of French troops which embark in NEURALIA at Freetown, and Durban.
(D.O.D.(F) 1744/27 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

W.S.5.A. (Contd.) Following is position in regard to availability of accommodation in vessels of W.S.5.(a) on leaving Freetown. (10 ships). Numbers actually on board are as follows. (Details). Personnel in NEURALIA will disembark Freetown but will be replaced by French Foreign Legion.
(D. of S.T. 2354/27 to C.in C. S.A.)

Raiders, Convoys, Preferred to Hunting. Your 0830/11/12/40. South Atlantic Station only occupies such a small part of Indian Ocean and South Atlantic forces are normally only in that part escorting convoys that I do not feel able to offer much help. Shore-based aircraft are of great assistance as a deterrent to raider but it is only in South African waters on the South Atlantic Station that these are available and then only in limited areas. The modified system of convoy suggested would involve more ships for escorting than are normally available on the South Atlantic Station. With necessary forces available the suggestion has attraction but if put into force should I think have more ships in a group and cover a wider area. A system of group sailing somewhat similar though less rigid in form and comprising ships within certain speed limits sailing on the same day has been considered on this station but up to the present has not been tried owing to lack of vessels to provide the relatively close cover required. In general the principle followed has been to provide cover on the trade routes where attack is most likely whenever possible, and I agree with C.in C. East Indies in this respect.
(C.in C. S.A. 2145/N/27 to A.C.N.B.)

Mediterranean.

Submarines. 1706/24 request clarification whether TRIUMPH and three U Class are intended to join 1st S.F. on completion of this patrol.
(C.in C. Med. 1033/27 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Italian ship. Trieste. Intercepted air letter dated 5/12 indicates Italian ship was at Trieste on that date. (C.in C. A.M.I. 1203/27 to Adty).

Air Report. Operational summary No. 200 to 1200 27/12. Egypt. Day 26/12. Enemy bombed shore batteries and ships at Sollum during early morning. In later attack on Sollum by 10 bombers escorted by 30 fighters. TERROR also bombed without damage or casualties.

TERROR Bombed.

Greece. Day 26/12. 1 Sunderland searched South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. Sudan. Day 26/12. Submarine search by two Blenheims in Area 18 degs. 00 mins. N., 40° 07' E., 21° 25'N., 38° 36'E. made no sighting.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East 1817/27 to Air Min.)

Italian Troop Transports. Your 0958/27/11. Similar report now received from Turkey stating re-inforcements proceeding from North Adriatic inside Yugoslav Islands to Albania. Can you confirm.
(N.I.D.3. 1225/27 to N.A. Belgrade).

Personnel. A.T. 1618/5 stated that 500 young ratings would be sent to Mediterranean in December request information whether these are en route.
(C.in C. Med. 1433/27 to Adty).

7th C.S. 7th C.S. leaves Alexandria early A.M. 28/12 for Kaso Strait.
(Capt: (S) I 1650/27 to PANDORA).

Reserves of Aircraft. Reply to Adty 1324/23. (Air Ministry 1640/27) See Mediterranean Vol.)

Air Report Malta. Secret combined services report Malta to 1700 G.M.T. 27/12 no air activity owing to weather. No Naval or military item.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1700/27 to Air Min).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

B.N. Personnel. Chiefs of Staff ordered despatch of 4 Officer 60 O.R.S. of No.1. special service BN to Malta for employment as required in raids against railways on Italian Coast. Personnel sailed on BONAVENTURE after completing seven days course in use of submarine punts. Party will be at your disposal, please inform G.O.C. Malta. (D.C.O. 1835/27 to C.in C. Med.)

Chartering of Ships in Black Sea. My 1201/5. Have you any further information regarding the progress of these negotiations? (D.T.D. 1838/27 to N.A. Angora).

Greek Submarine, Capture, Enemy Routes, Brindisi, Valona. Greek submarine has captured prisoners from small coaster off Valona and found on the captain full instructions for entering Brindisi and Valona also something about Durazzo. With the help of these instructions he claims that he obtained three hits on a convoy off Saseno. Captain is kept solitary to reduce leakage but possibility of this information being incorrect in few days due to changes is realised. Coaster left Brindisi 1700/21 with pilot and when past nets had written orders to steer 036° to point Z then 049° to point Y then 049° to point X one mile to point A. Point Z is 2000 metres Semaphore Station 049 degs. Point Y is 3½ miles Semaphore Station 049 degs. Point X is 11½ miles Semaphore Station 049 degs. Instructions for Valona steer for Point A on courses ? placed between 080 degrees and 100 degs. thence 090 degs. to point B then further particulars "on Cape Linguetta and San Giovanni point and then to anchorage". Point A four point nine miles Saseno ? base 280 degrees. Point B two miles ? barrier light San Nicolo harbour Saseno Island 063°. Prisoners stated coaster steered from temporary point B to Cape Linquetta and then coasted to San Giovanni off (corrupt group) Gate whilst nets extended North East and have large buoys and long cylinders. Prisoners gave some information about Durazzo (corrupt groups) further enquiry. Captain is timid but may be made use of and appears open to bribery.
(N.A.Athens 2253/27 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 27.12.40. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

REGULUS. A.F.O. 647/40 para. 3 and my 1615/9 (1615/10 intended - H.M.S. REGULUS three days overdue) not to all addresses, recommend date for paying off REGULUS, 12/40. (C.in C. Med. 2335/27 to Adty).

East Indies.

CRICKET PROTECTOR. Cochin 26/12 arrival and departure CRICKET PROTECTOR for Bombay. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0604Z/27).

CAPETOWN is to leave Colombo at 0400Z/29 and proceed to position 002° North 080° East and then proceed towards position 005° North 092° East. Speed throughout 12 knots. (C.in C. E.I. 0606Z/27).

SYDNEY, S.W.4.B. Request may be informed whether SYDNEY will be available to escort S.W.4.B. leaving Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0608Z/27 to C.in C. Med.)

CERES, COLOMBO. CERES to leave Kismayu patrol to arrive Mombassa a.m. 29/12. COLOMBO to leave Mombasa p.m. 28/12 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu. (C.in C. E.I. 0620Z/27 to CERES, COLOMBO.)

Japanese Ships, Examination. Can reply now be given to my 0618/12. F.O.C.R.I.N.'s 0559/24 refers. (0654Z/27).

B.N.12. Troop Convoy. (1) B.N.12. 0800Z/27, escort LEANDER (route). EGRA, TAKLIWA, VARSOVA all for Port Sudan. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0844/Z/27 to Adty).

NETRAVATI, SHROPSHIRE. Aden arrivals 27/12 (Corrupt group) NETRAVATI (? from North) 0700Z. Departure 0830Z SHROPSHIRE for Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0851Z/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

445. Add to my 0851/27 (? route) 013° 051°, 011° 053°, 003° North 050° , 002° South 299°. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1531Z/27).

BARBETTE, BARNET. — 396. My 1032/16/12.* Sailing of BDV BARBETTE and BDV BARNET has been delayed owing to machinery defects in installation ship. (C.in C. E.I. 0852Z/27). * 1152/16 intended.

Whalers. — Request approval of my 1210/5/11 reference renaming whalers. (C.in C. E.I. 0924Z/27 to Adty).

LEANDER, B.N.12. — Bombay departure 1115Z/27 LEANDER Ocean escort to B.N.12. (S.O.(I) Bombay 1116Z/27).

B.S.11½. — Convoy sailing telegram B.S.11½. 10.00 G.M.T. 27/12 022 30'N., 037 07' E., 020 21' 037 54' W of Sanganeb reef to Port Sudan arriving 09.00/30. Escort ships:- CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, Motor transport and stores. DUNERA, Personnel ETHIOPIA, Personnel and CITY OF FLORENCE, Motor transport and stores. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1204/27, to Adty).

SHOREHAM, CALEDON, INDUS, AUCKLAND, EL WAFI. — Aden arrivals 1100Z/27. SHOREHAM 1300Z/27 CALEDON, INDUS, AUCKLAND. Kamaran arrival 25/12 departure 26/12 on patrol EL WAFI. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1335Z/27).

Aden Air Report. — Summary 198 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1400 27/12. 4 small vessels in Assab Harbour in position usually occupied by A.A. ship. Latter not seen. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1804/27 to Air Ministry).

Cabled. — Cable and Wireless report. Bushire Cable intercepted. Wireless transmission only to Iran, Irak and Bahrein. (Duty Officer T.C.B. 1800/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CORNWALL. CORNWALL sailed. E.T.A. Simonstown 1000B/28. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1920B/27).

China.

Moller Line, Japanese Interference. Re boarding of CARMEN MOLLER 22/12. JESSIE MOLLER prevented from sailing 25/12, and attitude of Japanese. (N.L.O. Shanghai to C.in C. China 0859Z/27 and 0901Z/27. Original in lion copy only).

A/C. Your 0822/8. Walrus aircraft (? complete) is being shipped uncrated in Oiler PEARLEAF sailing Singapore about 12/1. Remainder of Aircraft wings crated undercarriage and tail plane off, fuselage on cradle together with spare engines are being shipped in ORNA sailing Singapore about 5/1/41. Your 0600/26 spares available under consideration. (Commodore, Malaya, 0817Z/27 to C.in C. E.I).

Indo-China Trade. Your 0823/26. Request report whether this development is due to agreement between yourself and Captain Jouan. You will have seen from Foreign Office telegram Nos. 42 and 43 to Consul General Haiphong (Nos. 53 and 54 to C.O.I.C. Singapore for C.in C. China) the general line of policy desired to be adopted towards negotiations with Indo-China. Further instructions will follow but meanwhile it is requested you will not enter into any binding arrangement in view of the broader issues involved. (D.T.D. 1846/27 to C.in C. China).

Malaya offer of Australian Troops. Ref. offer of reinforcements and certain munitions made by Australia. Australian Defence Minister and Chief of Gen. Staff have spent four days here en route to visit Australians in Middle East. After having seen telegraph appreciation G.H.Q.F.E/40 of 5 Dec. and your 94149 (M.O.2) of 23rd they sent on their own initiative cables to Australia recommending despatch of Bridge group and munitions already offered. Following is gist of cable from Sturdee to Northcott. (begins) Impressed by appreciation of C.in C., Far East despatched

/Chiefs

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 27.12.40. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Malaya, offer of Australian Troops. (Contd.)

Chiefs of Staff early in December. Best method preventing war spreading to Far East is firm strong attitude here at earliest date. Retention Malaya vital continued effective maintenance Middle East via Cape. Consider brigade group and ancillary troops should be despatched earliest date shipping can be arranged. We are considering question eventual despatch whole eighth division to Malaya but this depends on date despatch India division shipping and accommodation. Unquestionably deterrent effect whole Australian Division in Malaya at early date of greatest importance and greater value to Empire than if left in Australia despite training difficulties. Essential send initially best brigade commander. If sufficient shipping not available at once essential proportion maintenance and medical troops accompany initial convoy. Confer C. in C., Far East re details not clear. (Ends).
Following is gist of cable from Spender to Army Melbourne, (Begins) Despatch stores and equipment to Singapore earliest possible date. Early despatch three inch Mortars most desirable. Other stores not to be held up if difficulty in shipping three point seven guns which understand from War Office cable to be diverted to Malaya. As Australian Minister of War is urging Australian Government to send reinforcements forthwith it appears only a matter of days before Australia agrees. Please inform me as soon as agreement is given so that direct contact can be started. In the mean time the necessary plans etc. are under way.
(C.in C. Far East 1028/27 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Nauru
Shelled.

No.273, 27th/12.
Following telegram has been received from Acting Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. (Begins).
27th December Unnumbered. Nauru heavily shelled this morning. Residents of danger areas on Ocean Island being evacuated and preparation made for destruction of secret documents. (Ends). Wellington and Melbourne informed.
(High Commissioner, Western Pacific No. T.O.O./27, to Colonial Office).

At 1940Z/26 Nauru heavily shelled by one enemy raider. Great material damage. Oil fuel destroyed, no casualties. Raider had Japanese name and markings. (A.C.N.B. 0441/27 to Admty. etc.)

My 0441/27. Prime Minister Australia today issued statement world publication following points:-
A. Shelled defenceless land people
B. Used Neutral colours
C. Nauru not fortified under terms Mandate known to enemy.
D. World will view attack with contemptuous disgust.
(A.C.N.B., 0449/27)

My 0441/27 and my 0546/27 to last addressee only. Following received from Admiralty. Reporting Officer, Nauru. Raider named NANYO MARU arrived off Island before daylight and using morse lamp at 0650 local time signalled Nauru (repeated several times) do not use your wireless or I will shoot the mast down. I am going to shoot the phosphate loading jettys. This signal was complied with to save destruction human life and property. Raider opened fire at 0640 local time and shelled at close range cantilever loading jetty, all oil storage tanks cantilever shore storage bin mooring gear store and other phosphate buildings. Using pom-poms destroyed morring buoys. Various portions shells found indicate 5.9 inch used. Oil fuel still burning. W/T Stn. intact. Power station intact. Private houses not fired on. Raider had mark on side of hull and flew Nazi star at gaff and not as stated in my first message ends. (A.C.N.B., 2402/27).

/ Survivors from
Raider Sinkings. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. (Contd.)

Survivors from Raider Sinkings.

My 12432/25 (survivors of ships sunk by enemy raiders picked up from island in Pacific waters). Propose including names of ships concerned. In view of approaching arrival of survivors in Australia would be glad of early reply. (A.C.N.B. 0635/27, to Admty.)

Your 0635/27. Concur.
(D.T.D. 2052/27).

My 19002/26. From interrogation at Port Moresby of six responsible survivors.

TOKYO MARU
(1) TOKYO MARU is KULMERLAND (description) No armament except seaplane.

MANYO MARU
(2) MANYO MARU cargo passenger accommodation twenty. (description) Estimated speed 21 knots.

MARVIK
(3) Nicknamed MARVIK, 6000 tons (description) Each raider carries at least one seaplane. Raiders moved in company from position of RANGITANE 200 miles east then to Kermadec thence to 025° south 177° east thence between New Hebrides and Loyal Island thence near San Cristobal thence Nauru thence to anchorage in Marshall Is. thence near Nauru thence Emirau. Third raider prisoners not landed at Emirau. Captain proposed to land prisoners Nauru condition being destruction of everything essential to life. Captain Upton RANGITANE considered shell fragment larger than six inches.
(A.C.N.B., 07002/27).

MONOWAI
Arrival Auckland 05452/27.
(S.O.(I) Wellington 05022/27)

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA will be escorted well clear of Fiji. Request you will arrange transfer of bullion.
(N.Z. Naval Board 0915/27 to Govr. Suva).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ACHILLES. German Ship ACHILLES sailed from Vigo 2345/26. (Consul Vigo, 0758/27 to Admty.)

ACHILLES of 1000 tons left Vigo 2345/26. (D.D.I.C. 1156/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ACHILLES sailed from Vigo 2345/26. (V.A.S. 1201/27).

ELSA ESSBERGER. Returned to Kobe 25/12. (Capt-on-Staff, Singapore, 09472/27 to Admty.)

OSSAG. My 1836/26.
OSSAG left Roumania 29/9/39 for Egypt. Put into Trieste where she was arrested by Shell Company. Arrest refused by Italian courts. Cargo presumably still Shell Company's. If so might be able to ship (? in) Spain. Please inform M.E.W. (Asst. N.A. Madrid, 2033/27 to D.N.I.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

DANDOLO. Italian S.S. DANDOLO sailing from Algiers for Sfax to load phosphates for Italy. (Madrid, 0900/27 to Admty.)

MAYA. Departure. MAYA in ballast Batoum. (Varna, 1615/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WAIOTIRA (Torpedoed 26/12) — Your 2222/26. Two tugs have sailed (C.in C. W.A. 0318/27 to MASHONA)

My 2222/26. Ship sank 0605 after internal explosion. All saved. 1 dead. E.t.a. Clyde 0830/28.
(MASHONA 0705/27 to Admty.)
Reported in position 058° 05' N., 017° 10'W. 2222/26.
Propellor out of action. Mashona standing by reports salvage possible. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0822/27 to SUPERMAN and SEAMAN).

ARDANBHAN — (British 4940 tons). Following read 59° 16' N., 20° 27' W. ARDANBHAN torpedoed (Lyness 1802/27).
Detach one destroyer to proceed to ARDANBHAN torpedoed 59° 16' N., 20° 27'W. at 1902/27.X (C.in C. W.A. 1932/27 to ACTIVE)
X? 1802/27 intended
My 1932/27. Destroyer detached to report name position course and speed (C.in C. W.A. 0818/28).
Your 0818/28 ANTELOPE detailed position course and speed 059° 01'N., 020° 08' W. 332° 20 knots.
(ANTELOPE, 0900/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

Submarines Reported.

1714. — D/F, probable U-Boat in area 25 miles radius from 53° N., 13° 20' W. (D.D.I.C. 1804/27).

2214. — D/F, Italian U-boat within 30 miles of line joining 41° N., 14° W. and 38° N., 16° W. (D.D.I.C. 2252/27).

Position of enemy S/M. — Ref. Admty. A.F. position 59° 16' N., 20° 27' at 1802/27 (D.D.I.C. 1951/27).

There are 3 U-boat between 53° 30' N. and 56° N. 15° W. and 16° W. (D.D.I.C. 1455/27)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 possibly between Madeira and Gibraltar.
2 to eastward of Azores.
2 possibly in Bay of Biscay bound for Gironde.
1 between 55° N. and 53° 30' N. 15° W. and 17° W.1712/26.
1 between 54° N. and 55° N. 15° W. and 18° W. 1929/26.
1 in 53° 41' N. 16° 08' W. 1025/27.
1 more in N.W. Approaches similar area.

German
1 in Freetown area.
1 about 300 miles N.E. of Azores.
1 in 56° 12' N. 17° 25' W. 1906/26.
1 about 59° 30' N. 15° W - 17° W. 1223/26.
1 between 57° 30' N. and 58° 30' N. west of 20° W. 1221/27.
1 may be homeward bound north about position unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1354/27.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

A/C attack 1045.

Am over enemy S/M in 53° 41' N., 16° 3'W. S/M sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C ? duty B 1023/27 to Oban) From Duty B. Have attacked S/M with bombs? level Dive ? not known S/M course 145° still searching (A/C ? duty B 1045/27 to Oban).
A/C report U-boat on surface 053° 41' N., 016° 08' W. at 1025. (C.in C. W.A. 1114/27 to HIGHLANDER)
My 1130/27 am searching for U-boat reported by A/C. (HIGHLANDER 1146/27 to C.in C. W.A.)

1240
A/C attack

A/C reports ? estimate attacked suspect U-boat 055° 51' N., 008° 35' W. at 1240/27 (C.in C. W.A. 1550/27).
One S/M submerged bearing 270° distance 3 miles course 180 position 56° 20' N., 7° 00' E. at 1235 (Duty Y ?? 1304/27 to 18 Reconnaissance Group H.Q.)
Enemy S/M previously reported has dived. Have attacked with bombs dive, no release 1240.
(Duty Y ?? 1314/27 to 18 Reconnaissance Group H.Q.)
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 180° speed 10 knots. Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in position 56° 20'N. 7° 00' E. at 1245. (Duty Y, 1321/27 to 18 Rec. Group H.Q.'s).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C.in C. H.F. sailed from Scapa at 1425 today in NELSON with 4 Destroyers to patrol to the Eastward of the Iceland Faroes Passage where EDINBURGH has been ordered to R/V with him at Noon tomorrow. An A/S Patrol on a line N.E.-ly from Muckle Flugga will be maintained from this evening until the morning of the 2nd. January by 2 A/S Trawlers which left Kirkwall at 1430 today; and F.O. Iceland reports that 6 Battle A/C are available at short notice from there at any time after daylight tomorrow. It is intended at present that NELSON and Destroyers should return to Scapa P.M./31. It is reported today from Stockholm that the Kiel Canal was re-opened yesterday to vessels of moderate beam.

British Air Activity.

2 special Air Patrols between Sullom Voe and the Norwegian Coast have been ordered to be flown daily from tomorrow until the 31st inclusive; and the additional Patrols STAB and SLEEVE were flown today.

Enemy Air Activity.

The Convoy BOOTY was attacked off Clacton at 1045 today by one A/C which dropped 4 bombs but did no damage; 7 H.E. and many Incendiary Bombs were dropped on Plymouth between 1900 and 2000 this evening without any damage to Naval Establishments except one small fire; and at Southampton, where 6 H.E. Bombs were dropped by a single A/C at 1520 today, ~~the Examination Vessel~~ H.M. Destroyer NORSEMAN and Tug CANUTE were very seriously damaged.
Two Enemy A/C flew over Liverpool at 1225 today apparently on a R/C flight. The conditions were ideal for this; and F.O. Liverpool suggests that in clear weather in future Patrols should be maintained on the outskirts of the Gun Defended Zone to intercept such flights.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

In consequence of suspected A/C minelaying the Eastern Entrance to Portsmouth was closed this morning except through the Looe Channel; and precautions have been ordered to be observed by Ships entering the Thames Gate. 2 Mines believed to be acoustic were exploded this evening, one about 1 mile from the Bar Light Vessel at Liverpool and one in Mounts Bay.

MOST SECRET.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary. SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A. & Raider.

The destroyers DUNCAN and HERD (Force H) were on their way westward to join EMPIRE TROOPER but apparently their fuel was running low. Visibility continued low preventing air search and RENOWN at 0941A reported that edge of starboard bulge was tearing away. This necessitated her return to Gibraltar. GERANIUM was ordered to take charge of KENYA, BERWICK, DERBYSHIRE and corvette to locate EMPIRE TROOPER whose D/F bearing indicated she was 60 miles N.W. of 27/2000 position (40° 12 N. 21° 13' W.) given by CYCLAMEN (2350/27).

At 1000A a signal was made by FORMIDABLE (S.O. Force K) to say that she had picked up 16 vessels of the convoy making a total of 22.
(This figure apparently includes the two picked up by SHEFFIELD on 27/12 - viz. CITY OF CANTERBURY and ESSEX ?)

At 1116 the Admiralty ordered FURIOUS to remain at Gibraltar to sail as soon as possible with DUNEDIN for Freetown.

At noon, the Admiralty broadcasted to 16 ships of convoy a rendezvous to the southward for noon/30 (approximately in 23° 45'N. 20° 10' W.)

The BONAVENTURE at 1111/28 expected to arrive Gibraltar at 1730A with German prisoners from the BADEN (8 officers and 31 men).

At noon A, the RENOWN and ARK ROYAL were in 40° 2' N. 19° 56' W. on the way to Gibraltar (about 750 miles).

The FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK had collected 14 ships of the convoy and were proceeding to southward; two others were with the SHEFFIELD. Only two ships the MENELAUS and COSTA RICA were not accounted for.
The DORSETSHIRE (from Freetown) was to meet FORMIDABLE in 26° 20'N. 20° 25' W. at 0800/31.
The weather was deteriorating and the BERWICK, which had been repaired temporarily at Gibraltar and was on the way to EMPIRE TROOPER, had to reduce speed to 15 knots (1400/28) and did not expect to meet her before daylight 29th.

Escorting EMPIRE TROOPER were the KENYA (cruiser) the CYCLAMEN (corvette) and DERBYSHIRE (armed merchant cruiser).
She was about 120 miles from Ponta Delgada at 6 p.m. It was intended that

/ she ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A & Raider.

she should, if possible, transfer her troops to warships under the lee of the island, but KENYA did not think this feasible in view of possible submarine attack.

H.M. Consul at Ponta Delgada was informed of the situation and that in view of the fact of EMPIRE TROOPER being an auxiliary warship, there would be no question of internment, so long as they did not land. He was asked to obtain assurances that military would not be interned and that no hindrance would be placed in way of their transhipment.

C.S.10 (KENYA) was directed that if she had to enter harbour, H.M. ships were not to enter to effect a transfer of troops.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Vichy French.

A Tangier report (C.3) states that 10,000 French naval ratings arrived at Casablanca yesterday.

North Atlantic.

With reference to the TRIDENT's attack on the Panamanian ship BONITA off Ponta Delgada, Admiralty have informed TRIDENT that she acted quite correctly. It appears that at least 3 torpedoes were fired, but missed, and 1 exploded on shore, damaging a house, another did not explode and has been salved by the Portuguese and is being taken to Lisbon in the destroyer DOURO. The incident occurred well within territorial waters.

Mediterranean.

Convoy. Convoy W.S.4 B (10 ships with troops for Middle East) escorted by SOUTHAMPTON, KANDAHAR and KIMBERLEY, arrived at Suez this afternoon.

Valona. 3 Blenheims bombed Valona Harbour, one bomb bursting 50 yards from a large ship.

China.

Captain on Staff, Singapore, reports there is no evidence to show that raiders operating in the Pacific are other than German or captured ships, but certain facts tend to show the Japanese are aware that German ships in Japan are probably acting as supply ships and raiders.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.12.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Increasing Endurance of Destroyers

Your 2147/20. Suggest consideration be given to provision of convoy A/S escorts of greater endurance by removing one boiler from VIMY and fitting internal fuel tank. VIMY has been running since September on two boilers and is due for complete re-boilering on 1st Jan. before joining C. in C., W.A. Estimate that about 30% increase in endurance could be obtained by fitting tank in forward boiler room to height of lower deck if No 1 boiler is removed. (C. in C., H.F. 1201/28 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 1130/28. (D.C. 1155/28) At 2330/28 (D.C. 2347/28)

Movements

MANCHESTER CITY — My 1006/25. Complement of firemen complete. Ship to leave Glasgow a.m./30 to comply with F.O.I.C. Greenock 1230/27. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0942/28.

BATH — Arrived Port Z.A. 0930. (TRELAWNEY 0952/28)

EGLINTON — Sailed Sheerness 1027. (C. in C., Nore 1140/28) Arrived Harwich 1510 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1605/28)

MAURITIUS, VIMY, BULLDOG. — Sailed from Scapa to escort MAURITIUS to Clyde. (A.C.O.S. 1150/28)

Northern Patrol — Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers (F.O.C.O.S. 1539/28)

VENOMOUS — Arrived Clyde (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2340/28)

KASHMIR, JERSEY, JUPITER — Arrived 1058 (C. in C., W.A., 0008/29) Sailed JERSEY and JUPITER 1523 (C. in C., W.A., 0008/29)

Operations

Anti-Raider Patrol in Iceland Faroes Passage — Your 2301/27. A/S Air Escort of one Hudson will be provided from 1300 to dark today (C. in C., Rosyth 0306/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

NELSON will pass through 063° 50' N., 003° 558 W., at 1200/29 steering 00° speed of advance 15 knots.

/If absence.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Anti-Raider In Iceland Narrows Passage.

In absence of any information regarding enemy EDINBURGH is to R/V with NELSON in above position.

If contact is not made during daylight/20th. EDINBURGH is to return to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1149/20 to EDINBURGH.)

Sailed from Scapa 0 in C. H.F. in NELSON, screened by BEDOUIN, TARTAR, BEAGLE, SIKH at 1430.(A.C.O.S. 1535/20.)

Your 2017/20. 6 Battle A/C are bombed up and available at short notice if weather permits from daylight tomorrow. (F.O. Iceland 1702/20 to C. in C. H.F.)
2 A/S Trawlers leave Kirkwall 1430/20 to maintain an A/S Patrol between Buckle Flugga and 61° 51' N. 0° 54'W., returning to Kirkwall AM/21. (A.C.O.S. 1534/20 to C. in C. H.F.) Expect arrive in HOOD with 4 Destroyers at 0830/20. (F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S. 2119/20 to A.C.O.S.)

Operation. F. V. 1.

Will be carried out between 2000 and 2230 tonight. One A/C with Flares and one with Bombs. (C. in C. Nore 1089/20.)

Operation F. L.

Request you order F.L. to be carried out as convenient when a minimum of 4 Destroyers become available for Force. (C. in C. H.F. 1151/20 to B.C.1.)

Operation. H.C.

M.T.B's 09 and 70 and Trawlers ALEXANDRITE and BOTHNIC will operate from 2130/20 till 0230/20 between No. 1 Buoy and A Buoy on anti-minelaying operation H.C. (V.A. Dover 1732/20 to Admty.)

Submarines.

O.25.

To leave Patrol 1800/30, remaining North of 57° N. until 0800/1. Route to Gap A. (S.O. 0931/20.)

L. 23.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.O.S. 1516/20.)

MINERVE.

Arrived with STELLA POLARIS (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1524/20.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1437/20.)

MOST SECRET.

28. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. Contd.

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0600/29.
(V.A.S. 1582/28.)

SEVERN. Propose carry out 4 day A/S Patrol between 55° N. and 59° N, and between 20° and 24° W. after leaving Plymouth.
(V. A. S. 1847/28. to C. in C. W.A.)

SEAWOLF. My 1130/21. Intend sail unescorted at 1315/30 to R/V in 110° Start Point 3 miles at 1030/31. (S.S. 1907/28.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Additional Patrols ordered today: STAB., SLEEVE.(C. in C. Rosyth 0738/28.)

2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0900 to patrol to Flamborough Head and return.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0740/28.)
Following Daily air patrols ordered 29th to 31st inclusive:
(A) From Sullom Voe to Videro (62° 22' N, 06° 30' W, then on a course 011° to 67° N. then to Sullom Voe direct.
(B) From Sullom Voe to 62° 07' N. 07° 40' W, then to 64° 14' N, 14° 58' W, and return on same track.(C. in C. Rosyth 1708/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn., to attack tonight U-Boats in No. 1. Basin at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1302/28.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy BOOTY. Being attacked by A/C in 51° 40' N. 1° 16' E. (Lowestoft 1045/28.) 4 Bombs dropped. No hits (WOOLSTON 1054/28.)

Immingham. Details of Damage in Air-Raid 15/16.
(O.C.W. Immingham 1140/28.)

Southampton. NORSEMAN, CANUTE, and Emergency Destroyer, Damaged. Single A/C dropped 6 H.E. Bombs at 1520 today. Thorneycroft report NORSEMAN (Destroyer) cut nearly in two, Emergency Destroyer minor damage by direct hit, and Tug CANUTE in sinking condition by near miss. One man killed in Old Docks
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 1710/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

MOST SECRET.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.6. and S.N.65.

Propose to sail S.N.6 and 65 at 0915 January 2 and lay S.N. 6 from 062° 19' 48" N., 007° 03' 36" W in 316° direction to 113 fathoms line p.m./3/1 and to lay S.N.65 from 061° 20' 06" N., 006° 44' W., to 060° 53' 54" N., 006° 30' 48"W a.m./4/1. Of sixth division probably only BATH will be available for this operation. Request I may be informed if three other destroyers and covering force can be available.
(R.A.M.L. 1046/28 to Adty).

East Indies.

Defence of Abadan.

Your 0701/28. Defence of Abadan is the responsibility of the A.O.C. Iraq with the co-operation of the Navy. You are to consult A.O.C. as regards the most effective measures that can be taken. Concur COCKCHAFER being employed as proposed but she must not be anchored nearer than about 3 miles above or below Abadan. Her presence close to the refinery would provide legitimate target for aircraft and an excuse for bombs falling in that area. Consider interception by fighter aircraft from Iraq is only effective defence. Admiralty are being asked if Iranian and Iraq Governments have been warned. A.O.C. Iraq will taken action through the proper authorities as regards A 1 0 C air raid precautions organisations if considered necessary.
(C.in C. E.I.13302/28 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

Your 1135/27. Presume Government Iran and Iraq have been informed of this possibility through diplomatic channels. Also that A.O.C. in C. Middle East and A.O.C. British Forces Iraq have been informed. Consider that in view of weak A/A armament of ships available in Persian Gulf and political complications involved in operating them close to neutral waters and probably firing over neutral territory that interception by R.A.F. fighter aircraft operating from Iran would be best defence scheme against any such raids. Defence of Abadan is primarily responsibility of A.O.C British Forces Iraq and S.N.O. Persian Gulf has been directed to consult him as regards taking most effective measures possible.
My 13322/28 to Adty).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.Contd.

Plymouth. During air raid between 1900 and 2000 today 7 H.E. and a large number of incendiary bombs were dropped in civil areas. Small fire in laundry of Naval Hospital but no damage to other naval establishments.(C. in C. W.A. 0107/39 to Adty.)

Mining.

Operation D. D. 2. Your 1184/26. Haven 1046/39. Intend sail from Milford (ADVENTURE 0927/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Portsmouth. Eastern entrance closed except through Looe Channel. Suspected A/C mining. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0950/28.)

S.N.6. and S.N. 65. Propose sail 0915/2 to lay S.N.6. on PM/5 and S.N.65 on AM/4. Of 6th Division probably only BATH will be available for this. Request I be informed if 3 other Destroyers and Covering Force can be made available (R.A.M.L. 1046/28 to Adty.) See Operations, Volume.

Loch Ewe. My 1907/5/9 and Adty. 1714/27/12. Consider that thorough Magnetic sweeping will be necessary before extensive use is made of this Port. (A.C.O.S.1119/28 to Adty.)

Thames Gate. Precautions for Ships entering. (C. in C. Nore 1451/28 to LOWESTOFT.)

Sheerness. At 1130/28 M/S Trawler SUNLIGHT detonated one Mine with S.A. Gear in 396° Nore Light Vessel 9.3 cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1511/28 and 1082/29.)

Falmouth. RENOVELLE damaged. RENOVELLE (Auxiliary Patrol Motor Boat), exploded Mine, presumed acoustic, in 50° 4' 8" N. 5° 30' 38"W. No casualties, but vessel damaged and towed into Newlyn. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1704/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.Contd.

Liverpool. One Mine, apparently acoustic, damaged Coaster LOCHER about 1 mile N.N.E. of Bar Light Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1950/28 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessel. My 0300/28. Position probably between 61° and 63° 30' N. and 20° to 25° W. (D.D.I.C. 0922/28.)

Unidentified Vessel. From Fair Isle. One small slow vessel bearing 144° 15 miles, steering 120°, at 0150/28. Not identified. (A.C.C.S. 1055/28 to Adty.)

1 Tanker and 2 Destroyers. At 1140 in 61° 35' N. 5° E. steering 315° at 10 knots.(C. in C. Rosyth 1204/28 to SEALION) (V.A.S. 1219/28 to S/M's Area B.

Kiel Canal. Kiel Canal announced opened from 27th to vessels with beam not exceeding. (? 71) feet. (N.A. Stockholm 1817/28 to D.N.I.)

E. Boat. Suspected near S4. E. Buoy at 2020, steering N.E. (C. in C. Nore 2137/28 to EGLINTON, EXMOOR.

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAPE ARGONA)
(A/S Trawler)
H.A.B.WYKS.)
(H/C.Trawler)

In collision at 0400/28 in Granton Road. Both damaged above waterline.
(H.C.I.C. Leith 1104/28.)

CROCUS.

(Corvette) In collision in Mersey with s.s. SALUTA. Badly holed. Will require docking for at least 3 weeks.
(F.C.I.C. Liverpool 1630/28.)

VALOROUS.

Have been in collision with Trawler LIBYAN in Sheerness Harbour. Side cut open to main deck level at 38 station.
(VALOROUS 1710/28 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

S.C.16. Dispersed, heavy weather. Routed through (positions) (C.in C. W.A. 0036/28 0136/28 to ACTIVE, ANTELOPE, GEORGETOWN, HEATHER, PICOTEE.)

F.S.72. Sailed 0200. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0205/28 to Admty.) 12 ships, 5 additional from Middlesbrough. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/28)

H.X.97. Meet H.X.97, 22 ships, escort HEPATICA, 1000/30. Route (C.in C. W.A. 1230/28 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN, RHODODENDRON). Cancel my 1545/27. Route from new R/V. (D.T.D. 1236/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X.100. List of ships (Senr. Canadian N.O. Halifax, 1246/28 1247/28 1735/28 to Admty.). Cancel Sections (1), (3) and (4) in my 1256/24. Route (D.T.D. 1259/28 to C.O.A.C. Halifax). Route (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1604/28).

O.B. 268. 1000/1/1/41. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1248/28 to Admty.)

F.N.70 (F))
F.N.71 (S)) My 1217/20, F.N. 20(F) postponed 24 hours. F.N.20(F) and F.N.71(S) will both sail from Thames at 0830/29. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1351/28 to Admty.)

S.C.16. Your 1130/28. Estimated position 2000/28 routed as in my 0136/28. Endeavour to R/V with convoy at daylight. (C.in C. W.A. 1810/28 to ACTIVE).

O.G.M. 48. 13 ships. E.t.a's (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1545/28 to Admty).

F.S. 73. List of ships and destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1556/28 to Admty.)

Pilots for Convoy. Earlier in war trouble experienced through ships from convoys racing for pilots at the Bar Light Vessel. Overcome by requesting Commodores to form convoys in single line ahead and increase distance apart of ships. Complaints again received - instructions to Commodores etc., from N.C.S.O's at Convoy Assembly Ports abroad. (D.T.D. 1615/28 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

F.N. 70 (fast)
F.N. 71 (slow) Intend sail about 0915/29 or as soon as sweeping completed, escorts VERSATILE and VALOROUS. F.N.71 (slow) escorts LOWESTOFT and WOOLSTON will sail immediately after F.N.70. (C.in C. Nore, 1638/28 to N.C.S.O. Southend)

O.B.O. 266. 0400/29, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1701/28).

/ H.X.101. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.101. Positions and route. (D.T.D. 1834/28 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

H.X.97. Meet (C.in C. W.A. 1916/28 to WHITEHALL WINCHELSEA, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER, RHODODENDRON).

F.N.70. My 1217/20 and 1351/28 amend close escort to read VERSATILE, GARTH. (C.in C. Rosyth 2003/28).

E.N.48. List 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2347/28).

BEAVERDALE Your 1842/27. BEAVERDALE route. Paravanes are not to be used in home waters. (D.T.D. 1704/28 to N.C.S.O. Belfast).

H.X.96. Arrived complete. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1300/28).

E.N. 48. Route. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1420/28).

W.N.62. Code MUTUAL.
1200/30. Escorts KING SOL (S O) SOUTHERN GEM 6 ships.
W N O code "limited" to R V with MUTUAL at 1130/31 in 56° 52' N. 7° 09' W.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1029/28).

W.N.60. Scapa departure CURACOA at 1013 to escort W.N.60. (A.C.O.S. 1052/28 to Admty.)

Your 0136/28 for passing to LADY MADALEINE. My position 1100 will be 054° 33' north 016° 32' west course 238° speed 12 knots visibility 2 miles GEORGETOWN in company. Intend altering 068° at dark and search at daylight. Due to oil fuel must meet convoy by 1000 tomorrow if speed made good on homeward trip only 7 knots. Request instructions.
(ACTIVE, 1130/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B.265. WHITEHALL, VANQUISHER have not joined convoy. Request air assistance in making contact. My position is 057° 35' N. 010° 06' W.
(WHITEHALL, 1201/28).

Your 1201. Aircraft will assist you.
(C.in C. W.A. 1422/28 to WHITEHALL).

H.G.50.
H.G.51. Your 1440/27 SCARBOROUGH will escort H.G.50 FOLKESTONE H.G.51.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1240/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

O.O.48. Intend including TIERCEL in Clyde portion of O.O.48.
Sailing 2230/29 and not to R/V as in C.in C. W.A's 1128/27.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1244/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

Arrived H.M.Y. TIERCEL.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1330/28).

F.S.74. Act as additional escort to F.S.74 Senior Officer WESTON whixh sails from Methil at 1400 tomorrow Sunday. Part company at Junction of Q.Z.Y.154 and 7 Q.Z.F. thence proceeding by 7 Q.Z.F. to Harwich. (C.in C. Rosyth 1338/28, to WORCESTER).

Convoy anchoring in vicinity of the Nore Light Vessel until visibility improves. Am anchored 3 cables 090 degs. from the Nore Light Vessel.
(LOWESTOFT 1350/28 to C.in C. Nore).

My 1350, convoy now entering.
(LOWESTOFT 1431/28).

O.B.266. Pass one full route to steamship E.F. Johnson who is to act as Cdre. SALUTA has returned to harbour after collision. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1322/28 to CLARKIA).

Arrived and sailed CLARKIA escorting O.B. 266.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1420/28).

O.C.M.48. 1525/28. H.M.T. YORK CITY. Thirteen.
(N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1530/28).

C.W.21. My 1228/27. Last paragraph.
Destroyer. BERKELEY, CLEVELAND,
A/S Trawlers, LE TIGRE, COVENTRY CITY,
LADY PHILOMENA, M/S Trawlers, ASH, BAY,
WALBUT and DEODAR if ready.
M.B.B. Vessels, HASLEMERE, ROEBUCK,
SAMBUR, PINTADE, PINGOUIN.
M.L.'s 113. 116. 117. 138. 165.
171 and Chasseur 43.
Number of M/V's in Convoy - 6.
(C.in C. Nore, 1558/28).

/ O.B.265 ....
H.X.97.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.265.
H.X.97.

Add to my 1532/28. (Estimated positions 2000 tonight).
O.B.265 058° 32' North 011° 39' West 325°.
H.X.97 covered by fleet units 058° 50'North 025° 20' West. (A.C.O.S. 1705/28).

H.X.97.

Your 1133/28. Owing to much bad weather low visibility convoy is widely scattered and I am not now in touch with Commodore. Present weather thick fog. HEPATICA lost touch with convoy on 22/12 and has probably not rejoined. Probably majority of ships being out of touch with Commodore are following route through 056° 44' north 028° 40' west 059° 05' North 016° 32' west and 057° 08' north 010° 00' west which appears to have been given them in case of separation. Estimated that most ships will cross meridian 023° west during forenoon tomorrow 29/12. My position course and speed at 1800 G.M.T./28, 057° 46' north 028° 10' west 062° 9 knots. Admiralty 1905/23 has not yet been passed to Commodore.
(WORCESTERSHIRE, 1745Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.)

F.S.75.

Act as additional escort for F.S.75 Senior Officer LONDONDERRY which sails from Methil at 2300 tomorrow Sunday. On arrival at Nore proceed as ordered by C.in C. Nore. (C.in C. Rosyt, 1300/28 to VESPER).

F.N.70.

My 1636 not to D 21 or GARTH.
GARTH is to replace VALOROUS as escort with F.N.70. She is to sail as ordered by VERSATILE tomorrow Sunday.
(C.in C. Nore 1810/28, to D.21, GARTH).

W.N.60.

Convoy W.N.60 now passing Rattray Head, speed 8.5 knots. (BLACKFLY, 1830/28).

S.C.16.

Have searched throughout day (ARDANBHAN, torpedoed, see 27/12) in poor visibility no sign of wreckage or boat. 150 tons fuel remaining, expected time of arrival Londonderry daylight 30th to fuel before joining S.C.16. My position course and speed 069 degs. 18' North 020 degs. 11' West 120 degs. 14½ knots.
(ANTELOPE, 1830/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ W.N. 61. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (Contd.)

Shipping. (Contd.)

W.N.61.

Time of sailing 2111/28. H.M. Trawlers RUMBA (S O) and SALTERELLO 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2150/28).

W.N.57.

Your 1757/28/12. VESTRA sailed 0945/23 in company R.F.A. PETROBUS H.M.T. STALBERG to R.V. with W.N. 57 off Duncansby Head at 1500. Convoy was three hours ahead of time. Ships instructed proceed independently destination if fail contact convoy. VESTRA destination Leith. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 2205/28)

F.N.70.

You are to sail tomorrow Sunday 29th to join as additional escort F.N.70 fast due sunk light vessel approximately 1445. Break off North of Sheringham so as to return to Harwich before dark. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2320/28, to WIDGEON).

F.N.48.

2230/28. H.M.T.'s INDIAN STAR, FOXTROT. Additional escort JASON. 11 ships. 1 ship for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2345/28).

Convoy Conferences.

Suggested that Masters of Merchant ships who have been running their ships in convoy since the outbreak of war are growing tired of convoy conferences. These are essential, but the interest of Masters might retained -
(a) by pointing instructions with reasons and giving examples from recent attacks on convoys,
(b) by attempting to give some tit-bits of information at each conference with due regard for security,
(c) by frequently inviting the opinion of masters on current questions of interest.
Admiralty control of Merchant shipping can only run smoothly if the Merchant Navy feels that the control is exercised in a spirit of service and understanding. N.C.S.O's and D.E.M.S. Officers are a natural channel for passing on. Admiralty would welcome constructive suggestions by Masters.
(D.T.D. 1853/28 to N.C.S.O's)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Troop Convoys.

BOSSO
EUMAEUS,
escort
OTTAWA

Intend sailing BOSSO and EUMAEUS escorted by OTTAWA 1600/29 speed 11 knots to rendezvous with SALOPIAN and GARLAND in position 270 degrees Oversay 6 miles at 0900/30 thence in accordance with Admiralty's 1835/27 not to all addressees, speed 14 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1038/28).

My 1038/28 Secret positions
(1) 56° 00' N. 10° 00' W. LARK
(2) 59° 00' N. 15° 00' W. PANSY
(3) 60° 00' N. 20° 00' W. ROBIN.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1245/28).

SALOPIAN escorted by GARLAND leaves Clyde 0015/30 to rendezvous with ABOSSO and EUMAEUS escorted by OTTAWA as ordered in F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1038/28 (route) SALOPIAN keeps W/T watch as for Western Patrol throughout passage.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1830/28 to SALOPIAN, GARLAND and 1832/28 to Western Patrol).

W.S.5B.

My 1539/25. Movement of WINDSOR CASTLE is cancelled. Ship will now load in Liverpool.
MONARCH OF BERMUDA due Liverpool to-day should be diverted to Avonmouth, from which port she will sail with Convoy W.S. 5B.
(D.O.D.(H) 1832/28, to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/27).

Corvettes. CLEMATIS with JONQUIL and GERANIUM proceeded at 2330 G.M.T. as instructed in your 2021/27.
(CLEMATIS 0100Z/28 to Admty).

DUNCAN, HERO. H.M. Ships DUNCAN, HERO, return Gibraltar.
(S.O. Force H, 0855A/28 to Capt: D.13.)

CYCLAMEN's 2350/27. My position, course and speed 038° 35'N., 018° 10'W 262° 13 knots. to intercept EMPIRE TROOPER 0900 A/29. Fuel remaining DUNCAN 206 HERO 193.
(Capt: D.13 0901A/28 to S.O. Force H.)

DERBYSHIRE. Proceed up Meridian 025° 30' W., to latitude 60° N. R/V for inward A/S escort will be signalled later.
(F.O.C.N.F. 1010/28 to DERBYSHIRE).

Visibility no air search. RENOWN defect. Persistent low visibility prevents air search. Leading edge of Starboard bulge of RENOWN has started to tear away. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL are returning to Gibraltar. F.O. 10th C.S. GERANIUM take charge of KENYA BERWICK, DERBYSHIRE and corvette and locate EMPIRE TROOPER. D/F bearing indicates she may be 60 miles to N.W. of position given in CYCLAMEN's 2350/27.
(S.O. Force H. 0941/A/28 to F.O.C.10 C.S.)

My 0941A/28. Request dock be prepared for RENOWN with all despatch for examination of bulge. Expected time of arrival a.m./30.
(S.O.Force H. 1019A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider (Contd.)

16 M/V's. with Force K.

In contact with 16 Merchant Vessels including one of "EXCESS".
(S.O. Force K. 1000N/28 to Adty, SHEFFIELD, S.O.Force H., F.O.C.N.A. C.in C. S.A.)

EMPIRE TROOPER.

Estimated position of EMPIRE TROOPER at /28 0800/39° 28'N., 22° 30'W course 0232 degrees, 6 knots.
(D.O.D.(F) 1015/28 to C.S.10, KENYA, JONQUIL, CLEMATIS, GERANIUM,

DUNCAN, HERO.

Your 0855 A/28. My position course and speed are 038° 22' 018° 10' 103° 22½.
HERO in company. Cancel my 0901 A/28 to S.O.Force H.
(Capt: D.13 1107A/28 to S.O. Force H.)

Cancel my 1010/28 and act in accordance with Admiralty 2021/27.
(V.A.N.P. 1310/28 to BERBYSHIRE).

R/V for Convoy.

For BHUTAN, MENELAUS, SETTLER, DELANE, CITY OF DERBY, STENTOR, ARABISTAN, ANSLEM, CITY OF LONDON, TAMAROA, CITY OF CANTERBURY, NEURALIA, RANGITIKI, COSTA RICA, ELIZABETHVILLE, ORBITA. R/V for convoy W.S.5.A. at 1200 (Zone plus 1) 30/12 is 045 degs. "DAISY" 300 miles.
(D.O.D.(F) 1201/28 to All ships in Area 1).

BONAVENTURE.

Expect to arrive at Gibraltar 1730A/29. Request immediate supply of 1050 oil fuel. etc. Have following for disposal, four army officers 60 other ranks and two tons of stores. Eight officers and 31 other German prisoners.
(BONAVENTURE, 1111/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DORSETSHIRE, Convoy R/V., Corvettes, FURIOUS, DUNEDIN.

Your 1849/27 (not to F.O.C.N.A. or DUNEDIN).
1. para (a) Concur, DORSETSHIRE to conform.
2. para (b) - Admty. will broadcast. (R/V for Convoy).
3. para.(c)- Corvettes must remain with EMPIRE TROOPER for the present.
4. para. (e)- FURIOUS is to remain at Gibraltar after fuelling to be sailed as soon as possible in company with DUNEDIN for Freetown. C.in C. S.A. arranging their Time of Arrival. (D.O.D.(F) 1116/28 to Force K, F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

D/F Enemy Unit.

First Class D/F Bearings from me at 1226Z were Call Sign Z S E L 269 degrees Call Sign M I M N 261 degrees. My position 1226 039° 56' N., 020° 11' W.
(S.O.Force H., 1226A/28 to C.S.10).

Submarines Destroyers, (Gibraltar)

My 1028/27 not to Admiralty and your 1019/28 not to Captain (S) I, V.A.Malta. Intend to retain submrines at Gibraltar for the present. JAGUAR escorting CIRCASSIA towards P Three sails 1830/28, FAULKNOR, FIREDRAKE, HASTY sails 2000/28. Request you signal R/V for these four destroyers to meet you Sunday 29th/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1232/28 to S.O.Force H.)

Force H.

My position course and speed ARK ROYAL in company at 1200 A 040° 02' N., 019° 56'W 120° 18 knots. Expect to pass through position 036° 10'N., 011° 40' W at approx. 1300/29 thence 095°.
Request screen may meet me as early as possible.
(S.O.Force H, 1255A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE TROOPER. disposal of personnel.

Ref: A.T. 2021/27. A. The safety of the personnel in EMPIRE TROOPER is the first consideration. B. Subject to A it is not desired that either EMPIRE TROOPER or the personnel in her should go to the Azores, but it is realised that EMPIRE TROOPER without personnel may have to go to Azores for repairs. C. The best solution of A and B is that personnel from EMPIRE TROOPER should be transferred to sea to cruisers and DERBYSHIRE for passage to Gibraltar. D. If C is not safe or practicable then transfer of personnel must be carried out either under the Lee of the Azores or as a last resort in Ponta Delgada anchorage or harbour. E. Report action you decide on in order that Portuguese authorities may if necessary be warned.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1303/28 to C.S.10).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

Force K, Ships in company, SHEFFIELD, DORSETSHIRE.

13. My 1000/28. (a) proceeding with following ships - NORFOLK and CITY OF CANTERBURY, RANGITIKI, CITY OF LONDON, ELIZABETHVILLE, TAMAROA, ANSELM, CITY OF DERBY, ORBITA, BHUTAN, DELANE, NEURALIA, ARABISTAN, STENTOR, ATREUS, SETTLER. (b) SHEFFIELD with ESSEX is being ordered to Gibraltar. (c) My 1349/27 para.(a) and (b) DORSETSHIRE to leave latitude 23.30N in time to meet me at 0800/31 in position 26.25W. (d) My appreciation is that only ships of slow convoy not accounted for are MENELAUS, COSTARICA. All times Zone plus 1. (S.O.Force K, 1326/20 to Adty, S.O.Force H., F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. S.A. SHEFFIELD, DORSETSHIRE, NORFOLK.)

BERWICK, damage.

Your 2021/27 and your 1303/28. In addition to underwater damage sustained in action BERWICK has 3 frames and 2 longitude frame fractures in starboard cable locker. Temporary repairs by welding were effected at Gibraltar and additional longitude frame fitted. Welding is now breaking away and additional longitude frame fractured. Ship is working badly. In view of deteriorating weather conditions maximum speed is now reduced to 15 knots in which case it is doubtful whether EMPIRE TROOPER will be met before daylight tomorrow 29/12.
(BERWICK 1400Z/28 to Admiralty, S.O.Force H, Force K, C.S.10, F.O.C.N.A.)

CLAN CUMMING.

Proceed to Gibraltar. After dark report expected time of arrival.
(D.O.D.(F) 1459/28 to CLAN CUMMING).
(Use Call Sign allocated for operation EXCESS)

RENOWN.

RENOWN will pass through position 036° 52' North, 013 08' W., at 1000 A/29 course 120 17½ knots. Join me at that time with HERO.
(S.O.Force H, 1541A/28, to Capt: D.13).

FURIOUS.

Gibraltar arrivals 1415 FURIOUS Capt: (D) 8, FAULKNOR and FIREDRAKE.
(F.O.C.N.A.1650/28 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

Destroyers. Your 1255/28 and my 1232/28. FAULKNOR FIREDRAKE, HASTY, JAGUAR ordered to pass through position 036° 25'N., 012° 20'W at 1100 zero minus one Sunday 29/12 steering 300° .
(F.O.C.N.A. 1704/28 to S.O.Force H.)

EMPIRE TROOPER TRIDENT. Transport EMPIRE TROOPER damaged in action accompanied by C.S.10 in KENYA, BERWICK, DERBYSHIRE and 4 Corvettes is proceeding towards Ponta Delgada from the Northward. She may arrive there to-morrow 29/12. If possible the troops on board will be transferred to the Warships at sea or under the lee of the Island. In which case EMPIRE TROOPER may or may not proceed into Ponta Delgada for repairs.
(D.O.D.(F) 1725/28 to TRIDENT).

EMPIRE TROOPER, CYCLAMEN and DERBYSHIRE in Company. My position is 039° 30'N., 024° 16'W.
(F.O.I.C. 10 C.S. 1804/28 to Adty).

FURIOUS FIREDRAKE FURY. Intend to sail FURIOUS escorted by FIREDRAKE and FURY at 0001 29/12 to endeavour to R/V with convoy W.S.5.A. Destroyers will be recalled as requisite.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1730/28 to Adty).

575. Cancel my 1730/28.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1826/28 to Adty).

ARGUS, DUNEDIN. My 1500/28. ARGUS, DUNEDIN 6 Destroyers 3 M.T.'s expected time of arrival Gibraltar 0730/29 from West.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1756/28 to CIRCASSIA, FURIOUS, FURY, FORESTER, JAGUAR, HASTY, FIREDRAKE.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

Destroyers leave Gibraltar.

Gibraltar departure 2015/28. FAULKNOR, FIREDRAKE, HASTY R/V with S.O.Force H in accordance with my 1704.
(Force A, 2020/28 to Adty etc.)

DUNEDIN.

My position 2200/28 036° 05' N., 007°47'W., Expect to pass boom at 0800/29. Request immediate supply 950 tons oil fuel, (and provisions).
(DUNEDIN, 2201/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE TROOPER.

Your 1303/28. EMPIRE TROOPER is holed on water line forward and has slight trim by bow due to water in foremost hold. Owing to blown high pressure glands her present maximum speed is 8 knots. All defects and damage appear quickly and easily repairable and troops are at present in no danger. In view of known presence of enemy S/M and lack of sufficient A/S vessels I consider transfer of 2,500 men open or territorial waters will endanger both personnel and ships. In view of short period required for repairs would it not be possible for troops to remain on board EMPIRE TROOPER, thence proceeding under escort to Gibraltar. If not transfer must be carried out at Ponta Delgada. Request reply by 1200 tomorrow Sunday at which time I arrive at Ponta Delgada.
(C.S.10. 2241Z/28 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

Situation report at Ponta Delgada.

Following is for your personal information and has been despatched to Lisbon as a precautionary measure only. If this permission is definitely asked for from the Portuguese Government you will be informed. If troops enter harbour in EMPIRE TROOPER they are not repeat not to be allowed to land.
2. (Begins) British troopship EMPIRE TROOPER with troops on board was damaged by enemy action in the Atlantic on December 25th. Every effort was made to tranship troops into other vessels at sea but owing to weather conditions and other circumstances this proved impracticable.
3. We have no alternative therefore but to direct her for necessary repairs to Ponta Delgada where she would probably arrive late on December 29th. These repairs may take some time and we propose to effect transhipment of troops as soon as necessary safe arrangements can be made. It may be that this will have to take place either in Portuguese territorial waters or actually in port.
4. In view of fact that the EMPIRE TROOPER should be regarded as an auxiliary warship, there would be no question of internment of the military personnel on board so long as they did not land. Even so, we realise that presence of this personnel on board ship in this particular locality may be embarrassing to the Portuguese authorities and we therefore assume that the transhipment would be agreeable to the Portuguese Government.
5. Please inform Dr. Salazar at once of the foregoing and try to obtain assurances from him (1) that the military personnel will not be interned while in port and (2) that no hindrance will be placed in the way of transhipment.
6. We assume of course that the ship will be given due time to make the necessary repairs. (Ends).
7. Repeat you will be informed if this permission is definitely asked for from Portuguese Government.
(Hd. of M, 2305/28 to Consul, Ponta Delgada).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

My 1303/28. Ambassador, Lisbon, and Consul Ponta Delgada, have been warned of the possibility of EMPIRE TROOPER having to enter Ponta Delgada with the troops on board. They are taking no action with Portuguese authorities until Admiralty inform them that this is necessary. Para.D. If transfer at sea or under the lee outside territorial waters is not practicable and entry of EMPIRE TROOPER into Ponta Delgada with troops on board becomes essential, H.M. ships are not to enter harbour to effect any transfer. A merchant ship will be sent to Ponta Delgada for the Troops.
(Hd. of M. 2332/28 to C.S.10).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French at Casablanca. (C.3.) It is reported that 10,000 French Naval Ratings arrived at Casablanca yesterda; Telegram No. 2161.
(Wagon, Tangier, No T.O.O./28).

French Convoys. At 1130/28, armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE passed east to west escorting French ships MAURICE, DELMAS, 3161 tons and JEAN L.D. 5795 tons. At 1600/28 sloop D'IBERVILLE passed east to west escorting French S/M BEVEZIERS and French sloop LINOIS, 7473 tons. (D.O.R. 29/12).

SENATEUR DUHAMEL intercepted. Reference I.N.P. No.1 Section 9 para.81. (a) SENATEUR DUHAMEL French detained (b) 095° (c) 033° 44'N., 010° 26'W (d) 1600 (e) ordered to Gibraltar arriving 1800/29.
(CAMITO 2010/28 to V.A.N.P.)

North Atlantic.

Submarine attack at Ponta Delgada on BONITA. Your 1012/27. Report immediately with reference to Panamanian ship. (a) Name (b) Where from.(c) Whither bound (d) Cargo carried and to whom consigned (e) Owners and by whom chartered. (f) Any other information.
(D.T.D. 1352/28 to Consul, Ponta Delgada).

Your 1352/28.
(a) BONITA (b) Barry (c) Freetown (d) 5991 tons of coal Sierra Leone Coal Company. (e) John T. Hamilton & Co., Ministry of Shipping. (f) put into Ponta Delgada for oil fuel and engine repairs. Also see my 1516/28.
(Ponta Delgada 1709/28 to Adty).

Your 1527/27. You acted quite correctly.
(V.C.N.S. 1414/28 to TRIDENT).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

My 1012/27. Ship attacked was Panamanian Steamship BONINE (? BONITA). At least 3 torpedoes were fired. Missed. 3 exploded on shore damaging house. Third ranashore did not explode and has been salved by Portuguese Authorities. It is being taken to Lisbon on board Portuguese Destroyer DOURO. The whole incident took place well within territorial waters.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1516/28 to Adty).

Air Report.

A.339 28/12. Daily Summary Operations.
1 routine A/S patrol. 1 Recco to East.
1 escort for H.M. Ships arriving from West.
1 special A/S patrol to West of Straits.
Area covered 4° W., to 8° W.
(200 Group 1701/28).

UNIQUE.

Your 1101/28 UNIQUE sails for Malta at 1845/28 (route). Request onward route. C.in C. Mediterranean 1627/11. Request also information concerning movements on OLYMPUS be passed to UNIQUE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1746/28 to V.A.Malta.)

578. Gibraltar departure 1840/28. UNIQUE in accordance with my 1746/28. Q.B.24 BB 117 B.C.167.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1922/28 to Adty, V.A. Malta.)

CIRCASSIA JAGUAR.

CIRCASSIA, JAGUAR sailed 1800 zone minue 1 28/12 speed of advance 13½ knots routed through 035° 00' N., 009° 00' W., to patrol in area bounded by positions 035° 25' 011° 40' 033° 40' 010° 50' 032° 10' 014° 40' 033° 50' 015° 45'. JAGUAR parts company as required to join S.O.Force H. in position 036° 25' 012° 20' at 1100 zone minus 1/29.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1810/28.)

Gibraltar departure 1800/28 CIRCASSIA for P 3 and Q.3 escorted by JAGUAR in accordance with my 1232/28.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1840/28 to Adty etc.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Vessel.

Ellerman of S.S. JOHAN reports that at 0300/8 a suspicious vessel anchored in position 11° 21' N., 15° 36' W. after steaming up Kanabak Reach in the dark. No lights shown. Appearance similar to sketch No. 570 in C.A.F.O. 422 but without Samson posts near funnel. Hull and funnel black, masts and superstructure buff, no crows nest, heavy derrick forward, low in water. Lights at Ppelam, Cameleon, barrel were extinguished. On enquiring he was informed that Orango Channel is no longer used.
(C.in C. S.A. 0717/28 to D.N.I.)

Corvettes, DELHI, NEPTUNE.

My 1329/27. MILFORD, ASPHODEL and CALENDULA should make contact:- MILFORD p.m./30 ASPHODEL and CALENDULA a.m./31 NEPTUNE sails from Freetown 1800/28 at 20 knots will provide cover to convoy and keep in touch as required. You will remain as ocean escort in charge of convoy.
(C.in C. S.A. 1045N/28 to DELHI).

CORNWALL.

Simonstown, arrival 28/12 CORNWALL. Propose ship de-ammunition, 30/12 and be taken in hand for refit 31/12.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1130Z/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

Dispositions.

Weekly statement 28/12.
Freetown ALBATROSS, CANTON and CORFU.
H.M.S. BULOLO sails with S.L.61 1/1.
ASPHODEL and CALENDULA sail 29/12 to meet DELHI. NEPTUNE sails p.m./28 to cover DELHI and convoy.
Freetown - U.K. ESPERANCE BAY sailed 28/12 with S.L.60.
U.K. - Freetown. Force K and BERWICK escorting W.S.5.A. due 4/1. DORSETSHIRE proceeding to meet W.S.5.A. GERANIUM, JONQUIL, CYCLAMEN and CLEMATIS escorting EMPIRE TROOPER to Ponta Delgada.
Gibraltar - Freetown. VINDICTIVE escorted by ILEX and ENCOUNTER due 31/12.
Freetown area. BRIDGEWATER arrives 29/12 from escort duty.
Gulf of Guinea. DELHI escorting French Legion Duala to Freetown.
St. Helena area. HERMES, DRAGON, PRETORIA CASTLE.
Simonstown - Freetown. HAWKINS arriving Freetown 30/12.
Simonstown. CORNWALL, DEVONSHIRE.
Durban. French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.

/Capetown ....

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Dispositions. (Contd.)

Capetown. CARNARVON CASTLE.
Plate Area. CUMBERLAND, ENTERPRISE, NEWCASTLE, ASTURIAS.
Rio de Janeiro Area. QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
U.K. Ports. ARAWA (Sails for Freetown 3/1). ALCANTARA, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, MORETON BAY, MOOLTAN.
(C.in C. S.A. 1829N/28).

Mediterranean.

Operations, January.

Policy (C.in C. Med. 1011/28 to Adty) See Med. Volume.

A.S.9.

Convoy A.S.9. arrived less Greek ship PRODROMOS and KEHREA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said to Adty, 1753/27 and received 0245/29).

French Lorries, suggested Barter.

Need of lorries both for ourselves and Greeks so urgent that if French are really prepared to barter these for produce or petrol, consider blockade should be relaxed to permit of this. French are reported to have offered Greeks 1000 lorries in exchange for petrol. Recommend that we be empowered to open negotiations with Syria for lorries either on behalf Greeks or ourselves.

Free French Movement.

During Mr. Edens visit here he met General Catroux and it was agreed that should policy of bringing Syria over to Free France prove impossible, desertions should be encouraged. Catroux thinks chances of successful coup in Syria now so remote that he wishes to adopt policy of encouraging desertion. I am still reluctant to adopt this policy as I think outside events might even now produce change in Syria and that it is undesirable to cause further confusion and weakening of French in Syria while we are unable to take advantage of it. Arrival of Free French Troops may do something to change situation. I am still discussing question with General Catroux.
(C.in C. M.E. 0945/28 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

16th Auxiliary A/S Group.

My 1224/27. These five A/S Whalers are converted commercial now commissioned as H.M.Ships about 320 tons Speed 13 knots oil fuel. Fitted 123 A armed 6 pounder L.A. and 2 Hotchkiss. They should complet early January.
(D.A/S.W. 1305/28 to C.in C. Med.)

Reserve of A/C Malta.

Your 1941/21. (Reply from Air Min. 1640/27 follows).
(D.N.A.D. 1237/28 to C.in C. Med.)

Italian ship at Trieste.

Your 1203/27. Please state name of ship referred to.
(Adty. 1530/28 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Your 1530/28 REX.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0923/29 to Adty).

Air Report Egypt, Greece.

Operational Summary No. 201 up to 1200. 28/12.
Greece. Day 27/12. one Sunderland patrolled South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1516/28 to Air Min).

Malta, Air Report, Recco Naples.

Combined service report Malta to 1700 28/12 1000 to 1453. Glenn Martin Photographic reconnaissance Naples. In harbour 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 9 destroyers. 2 M/V's 12,000 to 15,000 tons, 6 M/V's 6,000 tons, 2 M/V's 4,000 tons and 3 fleet auxilliaries. Slight but very inaccurate A.A. 4,000 pamphlets of Prime Minister's speech and 1,000 No.13 pamphlets dropped. Further operations cancelled due to weather conditions. No enemy air activity over Malta. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. Malta, 1700/28 to Air Min).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Defence of Abadan. — C.in C. E.I. 1330/28 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf and C.in C. E.I. 1332Z/28 to Adty (See Operations Volume).

Policy. — Convoy escorts and protection of trade. Coming commitments. Intentions re LEANDER. Arrival of ENTERPRISE and HERMES in his command would be welcome.
(C.in C. E.I. 2016/28/Z to Adty)
See Operations Vol.

U.S.8. CAPETOWN CANBERRA. — Intended escorts for U.S.8 from Colombo to Gulf of Aden are CAPETOWN and one A.M.C. In addition subject to A.C.N.B. Navy Office, Melbourne concurrence CANBERRA from Colombo to approximately 070° East.
(C.in C. E.I. 0822Z/28 to Adty).

KANIMBLA. — Your 1026/26 and my 1004/12. On arrival at Durban KANIMBLA to be at 12 hours' notice for six days for machinery overhaul.
(C.in C. E.I. 0826Z/28 to KANIMBLA)

Suspicious Vessel. — At 0709Z/28 BEACONSTREET when in position 013° 25' N., 048° 26' E., reported sighting a suspicious vessel. Message cancelled at 0725Z/28. Cancellation considered genuine.
(C.in C. E.I. 0830Z/28 to E.I. Squadron).

Aden. Air Report. — Operational Summary No.199 for 24 hours ending 1500/28. 2 Blenheims, 203 Sqdn., provided Fighter escorts for convoy B.S.11½ using advanced base Kamaran.
(A.H.Q.Aden, 1643/28 to Air Min.)

SOUTHAMPTON. KANDAHAR. — Arrivals SOUTHAMPTON, KANDAHAR 28/12 Suez.
(S.B.N.O. Suez 1814/28).

W.S.4.B. — Convoy W.S.4.B. arrived Suez p.m./28.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1859/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shortage of Convoy Escorts.

(i) The following ocean convoy and troop ship movements take place in the near future. (a) B.N.13 leaving Bombay 8/1 for Red Sea. (b) S.W.4.B. passing Aden, 15/1 for Durban. (c) Transport leaving Mauritius 15/1 for Durban or Red Sea. (d) U.S.8. leaving 16/1 for Red Sea (e) W.S.5.A. leaving Durban about 21/1 for Red Sea. (f) B.N.14 leaving Bombay 23/1 for Red Sea.

(ii) This is not an unusual state of affairs and it is likely to recur. Ocean escorts are required for such movement.

(iii) Allowing for refit, docking, boiler cleaning and machinery overhaul (none of which can be deferred without causing greater difficulty later on), I shall have available at any time during this period one 8 inch cruiser, three C class cruisers and three (4 part time) armed merchant cruisers to meet my principal commitments of escort, protection of shipping and the Kismayu patrol. Some temporary help may be obtained from SYDNEY and CANBERRA.

(iv) By reducing escort of the above convoys (except U.S.8) to one cruiser or one armed merchant cruiser and breaking the continuity of the Kismayu patrol, ocean escorts can be provided but it will leave only one armed marchant cruiser (two part time) and an occasional cruiser for the protection of all shipping outside the Red Sea during this period. Note. I am counting on SYDNEY being available to bring the W.S.4.B. to the latitude of Mombasa.

(v) I am gravely concerned over this shortage of ships particularly (? in) protection of shipping which problem is aggravated by the great distances involved. Moreover C Class Cruisers have too short an endurance and armed merchant cruisers are too slow to deal effectively with the modern raiders unless they are very lucky.

(vi) The losses of merchant ships on station have not, I regret, been negligible nor has contact yet been made with a raider. I attribute this to fact protection of shipping is forced by other immediate requirements to take the lowest place in the priority order of commitments.

(vii) Recent experiences in Atlantic and at Nauru warn me of what may occur E.I.Station at any time but without more ships of a suitable type there are few safe guards that I can take.

/viii)

MOST SECRET.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shortage of Convoy Escorts. (Contd.)

(viii) Accepting a lower degree of defence for Red Sea Convoy, I intend shortly to withdraw LEANDER from Red Sea Force so as to have one cruiser with good endurance and speed free to operate on shipping route.

(ix) I am considering extending policy set out in my 1126/20/9 and routeing all East and West shipping North of Seychelles and through 8 and 9 degrees Channel, but without more ships to protect this comparatively dense route such a measure only makes it a little more difficult for the enemy to attack.

(x) I realize fully the difficulty of providing more ships but I feel it is my duty to acquaint T.L. with the serious position as I see it.

(xi) At present it appears uncertain when ENTERPRISE and HERMES will join my command but their early arrival would be welcome; as would also projected flying boat and G.R.(L) Squadron.
(C.in C. E.I. 2016Z/28 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China.

Agreement with Admiral Decoux for partial resumption of trade. French relations with Japan, and Thailand (Long signal from Govnr. Straits Settlements and C.in C. China to Colonial Office and Admiralty).
(C.in C. China, 0904Z/28).
Original in Lion Copy Only.

MANYO MARU.

My 0601/28 not to Admty. D.N.I. Raider now reported to be named NANYO MARU and flew Nazi Flag and not Japanese colour. There is no evidence to show raiders are other than German or captured ships but the following facts tend to show the Japanese are aware that German ships in Japan are probably acting as Supply Ships and Raiders.

TEIYO MARU, and other potential raiders.

(a) KULMERLAND last heard of Mitsubishi Dockyard 29/10 and reported transferred to Tatsuma Kisha Company and renamed TEIYO MARU (b) E. ESSBURGER returned to Kobe 25/12 after absence of twenty five days. (c) REGENSBERG departed from Yokohama for unknown destination 20/12 having previously been absent 27/9 to 28/10 (d) Raiders reported using Marshal Islands for refuelling. Crews which were landed OLE JACOB are being cross-examined in Singapore today.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 1509Z/28 to N.A. Tokyo S.O.I's and Adty).

America and West Indies.

ORDUNA, threatened attack.

Reference report regarding contemplated attack on ORDUNA when carrying Lord Willingdon. Request your remarks on possibility of this report having been deliberately put about with object of enticing cruiser patrol to northward. Understand cases have occurred in the past of false reports being found to be of enemy origin.
Callao pass to PRINCE ROBERT.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1232/28 to S.O.(I) Callao).

AUSONIA
VOLTAIRE
COLUMBIA.

Halifax 28/12 AUSONIA arrived from H.X.95 VOLTAIRE arrived from B.H.X.98. COLUMBIA arrived from H.X.99.
(S.O.(I) Halifax, 1009/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

LEOPOLDVILLE. Halifax arrival 1445/28 LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1450/28 to Adty).

H.J.BULL. Your 1811/21. (re Whale catcher H.J.BULL) and your 1906/21 and my 1545/28. Probable date of completion of Bull 20/1. depending upon arrival of A/A Guns and ammunition U.S.A. promise first week in January. Date of sailing of M/S. will be reported as soon as it can be forecasted.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1547/28 to Adty).

Australia.

A/C Report. My 23592/17. (report of unidentified seaplane). Aircraft sighted was not an enemy aircraft.
(A.C.N.B. 0558Z/28).

MANOORA MORESBY. MANOORA escorting S.S. TRIENZA left Cairus 0815Z/26 for Ocean Island. MORESBY arrived York Roads Torres Strait for surveying duties.
(A.C.N.B. 0559Z/28).

U.S.S. CANBERRA escorting H.M. Transports AQUITANIA QUEEN MARY AWATEA and DOMINION MONARCH left Sydney 2205Z/27 for R/V with MAURETANIA Western Pass Strait via South of Tasmania.
(A.C.N.B. 0809/28 to Adty).

HOBART. HOBART arrived Fremantle 0230Z/28.
(A.C.N.B. 1135/28).

Troop Transport. Australian forces for prospective convoys.
(Army, Melbourne, to W.O. 2009/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

Troop Transport (Prospective)

Your M.C. 347 28/12.
Provision of escorts and shipping has been under consideration and will inform you of decision but appears unlikely able provide additional shipping.
Have instructed C.in C. Far East deal with you direct regarding arrangements and necessary administrative troops.
(W.O. 1940/29 to Army, Melbourne).

ADELAIDE.

Following is a repetition of my 0409Z/27 (received undecyphereble) (begins) arrival Suva 2255Z/26 H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE.
(S.O.(I) Wellington 0033/28 to A.C.N.B. Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAURO CROCE.

27/12 arrival Italian Steamer MAURO CROCE, from Genoa.
(Barcelona 1611/28).

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA.

Following is repetition of my 1201/18. (not previously received). Intercepted telegram dated 14"12 from Steamship DUCHESSA D'AOSTA, PIRRIE to Lloyd Trieste, speaks of disembarkation and reembarkation of cargo, of work on ship during the next thirty days, of expenses and of stock of petrol. French Authorities suggest it may be intention to attempt to run the blockade.
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 0943/28 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

French Merchant Ships.

KATIOLA, MENDOZA.

Secret sources report (source B one) KATIOLA oiling this morning Saturday. No cargo engaged at present consequently date of sailing not settled. MENDOZA, expected to sail with meat and general cargo Jan. 5th. Ship has not yet oiled.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1231/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MANGIN (sunk 21/12.)

Your 1151/27 Swedish ship MANGIN sank in position 040° 45'N., 016° 50' W 21/12 time 2118. Vessel sank in 3 minutes. No confidential books on board. Route orders and Consigs in drawer of chart house went down with ship.
(N.C.S.O.Lisbon. 1119/28 to S.O.(I) Gib).

WAIOTIRA Survivors.

Arrived MASHONA with 78 officers and crew and 11 passengers survivors from WAIOTIRA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0900/28 to Adty).

CHARLES PRATT (torpedoed 21/12.)

My 1129/26. Crew saved except two believed lost. Owners informed. Master of CHARLES PRATTidentifies U/Boat from silouette as resembling U.25. After further enquiries consider ship on fire likely to have been second tanker.
(C.in C. S.A. 2231/28 to Adty).

Submarines. Reported.

If not in contact discontinue hunt and resume search for Convoy which it is presume will proceed direct to North Channel from R/V position. Aircraft is searching between 55° 35'N., 13° 40' W and 56° 00'N 08° 00'W. It is possible U/Boat reported in position 53° 00'N., 13° 20'W at 1714/27 is moving Northwards.
(C.in C. W.A. 1134/28 to HIGHLANDER).

1730.

Submarine periscope sighted 1730 N/26 000° 10'S., 008° 30'W.
(C.in C. S.A. 1204/28 to DELHI).

2130/26.

Direction-finding bearings indicate U/Boats probably within 200 miles of Cape Blanco at 2130/26.
(C.in C. S.A. 1206/28 to VINDICTIVE, DORSETSHIRE.)

By D/F on 4796 kc/s at 0210 B.S.T. unidentified enemy unit probable U/Boat S.W. of Iceland position inconclusive.
(D.D.I.C. 0300/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.
Italian. 1 may be returning to Mediterranean from Madeira.
1 about 39 degs North 15 degrees West.
1 to Eastward of Azores.
2 may arrive Gironde today or tomorrow.
4 in North West Approaches between 53 degs. 30'North and 57 degrees North 15 degrees W. and 17 degrees West.

German. 1 in Freetown area.
1 may be about 45 degs. N., 14 degs. W. bound for Lorient.
1 from South probably between 55 degs. N and 55 degs. 30' N., 12 degs. W. and 13 degs. 30' W.
1 possibly in area off Bloody Foreland.
1 between 57 degs. 30'North and 58 degs. 30' North 16 degs. West and 17 degs West.
1 probably eastbound between 58 degs. North and 59 degs. North about 18 degs. West.
2 between 58 degs. North and 60 degs. North near 20 degs. West.
1 within 100 miles South of Iceland west of 20 degs. West.
(D.D.I.C. 1309/28 (B.O.(S) 1521/28).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., Home Fleet has suggested that the endurance of Convoy A/S Escorts might be increased by about 30% if in such Destroyers as VIMY one boiler were removed and replaced by an internal Fuel Tank, and the suggestion is being considered

Enemy Air Activity

About 25 aircraft, most of which appear to have started from Vannes, attacked Plymouth between 1836 and 1957 last night. About 10 H.E. and many hundreds of Incendiary Bombs were dropped, causing many fires and some civilian casualties; but there were no Naval casualties and the damage to Naval buildings was slight.

An enemy aircraft appeared from the N.W. over the Orkneys at 1458 this afternoon and remained over the Prohibited Area for about one hour. It was engaged both by our fighters and by shore Batteries with U.T.P. and was last plotted on a S.E. course 30 miles East of Wick at 1618.

About 50 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland Convoy S.L. 58 was attacked at 0935 this morning, the British TREVARRACK of 5270 tons being hit an abandoned in a sinking condition at 1430; and the Convoy AGENT was bombed off Clacton at 1400 today, no damage being done. At 1510 two H.E. Bombs were also dropped on Ramsgate, causing some damage to houses but no Naval damage or casualty.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

At Liverpool 3 more mines were detonated this afternoon in QZS 74 about 7½ miles 312° from the Nelson Buoy; and during the 24 hours ending 1800 today 9 mines in all have been exploded, one of which damaged the SS CITRINE of 5218 tons in the Queens Channel at 1345 today. In view of this situation F.O.I.C. Liverpool considers the provision of at least 4 additional Sweepers for the Preston and Barrow Channels an urgent necessity.

2 mines were cut by Fleet Minesweepers in the War Channel off Harwich at 1240 and 1245 today; and the Eastern Entrance to Portsmouth was re-opened to shipping at 1716.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A. and Raider

The EMPIRE TROOPER (damaged transport) is expected to arrive at Ponta Delgada (San Miguel) in the Azores at noon. It is hoped that she will complete repairs shortly, but if this impracticable another merchant vessel will be sent to transport troops.

Ponta Delgada H.M.Consul was asked for a very early report as to whether ship could be made seaworthy at Ponta Delgada. (1158/29)

The submarine TRIDENT on patrol off Ponta Delgada at 0800/27 fired 3 torpedoes at a Panama ship which refused to answer signals.

Three transports of the convoy arrived at Gibraltar at 7.30 a.m. escorted by the ARGUS, DUNEDIN and 5 Destroyers.

/FURIOUS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Convoy W.S. 5 A. Raider-Contd.

FURIOUS and DUNEDIN left Gibraltar at 1430 with destroyers. FURIOUS and FURY to rendezvous with convoy at 0900N/3/1. (H.S. Note. Convoy would then be approaching Freetown)

As corvettes had been left behind the escort from there to Freetown would be destroyers ENCOUNTER and ILEX.

At noon/29 Convoy W.S. 5 A escorted by FORMIDABLE (aircraft carrier) and NORFOLK (cruiser) was in 33° 18' N., 19° 10' W., 85 miles west of Madeira. DORSETSHIRE (cruiser) was to meet them at 0800/31 in 26° N., 20° 25 W., (about 450 miles, south)

At 1651/29 the RENOWN and ARK ROYAL were about 180 miles from Gibraltar.

No report had been received of CLAN CUMMING and CALIFORNIA (armed merchant cruiser) was ordered at 1715/29 to proceed and search in approximate position 43° 40' N., 24° 30' W. Ships approaching this area were told to keep a special look out.

Shortly afterwards (1842/29) news came of CLAN CUMMING. At 1200/28 she was about 400 miles West of Gibraltar, making at 12 knots for Gibraltar with defects where she arrived at 2222/29.

This left only the MENELAUS and COSA RICA unaccounted for.

The CYCLAMEN with EMPIRE TROOPER had arrived at Ponta Delgada (Azores) at 1801/29 and the DUCHESS OF YORK was expected there on the 30th.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

A French floating dock with 3 tugs and trawler was sighted off Cape Tarifa at 1825/29.

Vichy warships are to be allowed to proceed south of Dakar. They should, however, be reported and if circumstances allow their destinatination checked.

South Atlantic

The flag of F.O., Force M. was struck in NEPTUNE at sunset yesterday, and Vice-Admiral J.H.D. Cunningham sailed today for U.K. in ORONTES.

Force L, after completing with fuel on 31/12, is to proceed to Simonstown.

The tanker BRITISH PREMIER is overdue and feared lost.

Mediterranean

C. in C., Mediterranean, commenting on the delay to Operation "Excess", says that so long as Force H has a double function and has to look westward as well as into the Mediterranean such delays will be unavoidable. The ideal is to have a force free from other commitments which covers convoys from West through to Narrows.

HYPERION (sunk 21/12) is considered to have been the victim of a mine, though the possibility of a U-Boat cannot be altogether excluded.

/Tobruk.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Tobruk and Valona were bombed by R.A.F. aircraft yesterday.

R.A.F. Blenheims bombed Valona again today, damaging port buildings. Two cargo boats in harbour were machine gunned. A submarine was observed in harbour.

East Indies

B.S. 11½ (Red Sea southbound convoy) left Aden at 0200Z/29 escorted by CALEDON, SHOREHAM and AUKLAND.

COLOMBO is to leave patrol off Kismayu, Italian Somaliland, to arrive Mombasa on 1/1/1941.

At 0313 G.M.T./29 BRITISH LOYALTY when in 14.20 N., 51.20 E., (N.E. of Socotra) made a "Q" distress message and broadcast a description of a suspicious vessel pursuing her. A cancellation of the message at 0401 was regarded with suspicion, and it was assumed there was a raider in the Gulf of Aden, but later BRITISH LOYALTY made a message in accordance with Admiralty D.V.

U-Boat Campaign

Submarine TUNA reports that at 0430/18 in 45.28 N., 02.27 W (off Gironde Estuary) she attacked a U-Boat, possibly German, with torpedo and gun. The U-Boat was hit not vitally, by one shell. 2 escort vessels forced TUNA to dive.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29. 12. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Allocation of H.T.M's in Home Waters. Following allocation has been approved. (A.C.N.S. M. 1431/29.)

Increasing Endurance of Destroyers. C. in C., H.F. 1201/28.
Consider that maximum speed of 35 knots is most desirable in destroyers on convoy escort duty. Provided that V.S.E.S can attain this speed on two boilers and that there will be a 30% increase in endurance I am in favour of C. in C., Home Fleet's proposal being adopted in those ships, such as VIMY and WARWICK, which are now out of action for a considerable time.
2. Captains D. Plymouth and Liverpool are being ordered to report whether 35 knots can be obtained on two boilers.
3. Until the number of destroyer escorts available is considerably larger than at present, I am not in favour of ships being taken in hand for any alterations which would put them out of service for long periods. (C. in C. W.A. 1846/29 to Adty.)

Skopen Fiord Examination of M/V's. Admiralty Messages 1283/27 and 1244/27.
The lack of anchorage and facilities at Skopen Fiord makes examination of vessels too superficial to discover anything suspicious or to obtain intelligence. Suggest REKBARREN and any other ship which has passed through German controlled waters or harbours be sent on to Kirkwall using if necessary plea of Contraband in order to obtain intelligence. (F.O.C.N.F. 2213/29 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELIKER. At 1130/29 (D.C. 1136/29.) at 2330/29.
D.C. 2356/29 and 0600/30.

Convoy/

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. Contd.

Oban A/A. Defences. Adty. 1911/24 and 1541/38. At present on A.A. cruiser has been diverted to provide defence for the anchorage. She is urgently required in her legitimate role.

S. It is therefore requested:-

(a)That requirements for A.A. gun defence may be approved in principle without awaiting a meeting of the C.O.S. (A.A.) Sub-Committee,

(b)That arrangements may be made to provide a deterrent defence from existing resources as soon as possible. (D. of L.D. 1317/29.)

Scapa Defences. Progress Report 29/12. (R.A.Scapa 2015/29.)

Movements.

MADRONA. Sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 1630/39.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0044/29.) Arrived Scapa 1645. (A.C.O.S. 1746/29.)

WHITSHED. Ky 2044/27. Sailing postponed further 24 hours.(C. in C. Nore 0914/29.)

NIGER, HUSSAR. Arrived 0910/29. (F.O. Humber 0919/29.)

HARRIER, GOSSAMER, SALAMANDER, PITCROY, MAVIS. Arrived 0859. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0943/29.)

MIDLETON, KANDOOR. Arrived 0940. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0943/40.

HOOD, CURACOA, CONJACK, ESCAPADE, ECHO, ELECTRA. Arrived Scapa 0943. (A.C.O.S. 1001/29.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

MAURITIUS. VIMY. BULLDOG.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1029/29). VIMY sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1215/29.)
WIDGEON.	Sailed 1336. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1349/29.
VERNONOBS.	Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1355/29.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers, (A.C.O.S. 1536/29.)
LAMINGTON. CHURCHILL. EXMOUTH.	Arrived Scapa 1246. (A.C.O.S. 1746/29.)
HOTSPUR and (?)	Arrived Reykjavik. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1953/29.)
BROKE.	Sailed for Belfast (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2001/29.)
KASHMIR.	Sailed from Plymouth. 0949/29. (C. in C. W.A. 0704/30.)

Operations.

Operation. P.V.1.	Will be carried out between 2000 and 2230 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1047/29.)
Operation. H. C.	Will be carried out tonight, Zero hour 2200. (V.A. Dover 1717/29.
Troop Embarkation.	GLENROY sailed for Lamlash. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2145/29.)
O. 23. SEALION. }	My 1456/27. To resume normal Patrol after dark today. (V.A.S.1018/29.)
UNDAUNTED.	My 1721/27. Sailed for Clyde escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 1130. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1136/29.)
SEVERN.	V.A.S. 1047/29. Concur with proposed Patrol. (A.C.N.S. T. 1263/29.) Propose Area be North of 55°N. (C. in C. W.A. 1836/29 to V.A.S.)

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMAND.

Submarines.

O. 81. Passes Bell Rock 1700/29. Route thence to Patrol within 20 miles of 60° 10' N. 4° 10' E.(C.9. 1421/29.)

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1625/29.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/30. (V.A.S. 1652/29.)

L. 23. Exercising tomorrow in Scapa Flow(A.C.C.S. 1711/29.)

British Air Activity.

Liverpool F.O.I.C. Liverpool reports R/C flight by 2 Enemy A/C over Liverpool at 1235 and 1237/28 and suggests Air Patrols be maintained in clear weather in future on outskirts of Gun-defended Zone to intercept such R/C. Fully concur in necessity for maximum possible protection and should be grateful if effect can be given to this proposal. (C. in C. W.A. 0109/29 to Fighter Command.)

Patrols. Ordered for today: SA.1A., SA.1.B., and SA.3. (C. in C. Rosyth 0738/29.)
2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0900 to patrol to Flamborough Head and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0750/29. Assessments. (C. in C. Rosyth 1744/29.)

Height of Balloons at sea. My 1306/11/12 and Admiralty 1630/19/11. FLEETWOOD now reports as a result of sea experience that it is impracticable to close-haul Balloon to less than 500 feet in strong winds and proposes that when not close-hauled heights up to 3500 feet should be permitted. Request decision as to regulations for flying balloons when (A) with convoys (B) on other occasions at sea. (C. in C. Rosyth 1105/29 to Adty.)

Brest. A/C of 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight Naval Dockyard and Shipping at Brest. Alternative Targets, Aerodrome and seaplane Base at Lanveoc Poulmic. (H.Q.C.C. 1350/29.)

Lorient. A/C of 53 and 59 Sqdns., to attack tonight S/M's and Naval Dockyard at Lorient. Alternative Target, following places in Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1352/29.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Falmouth.
A/A Balloons.

A946 29/12. Mark VI Balloons for protection. Approach Channel Falmouth now available. Request you will indicate to F.O.I.C. Falmouth and this Headquarters location in which balloons to be flown also whether craft or buoys to be used. (H.Q. Balloon Comd. 1440/29 to Adty.)

Fighter Escort cancelled.

Fighter Escort cancelled owing to weather. Kites should be flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1540/29 to JASON, INDIAN STAR, FOXTROT.)

Enemy Air Activity.

TREVARRACK.
(Convoy S.L.58.)

(British, 3270 Tons.) Bombed and on fire in 55° 34' N. 9° 30' W.(BALFE 0955/29.) Needs Tug at once. (BALFE 0942/29.)Proceed to assist. (C. in C. W.A. 1110/29 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER) Abandoned in sinking condition. Crew on board NORTH DEVON. Mate and Wireless Operator lost overboard. (WELLINGTON 1430/29 to C. in C. W.A.) Master now on board CORDELIA. States very little chance of salvage. (WELLINGTON 1631/29 to C. in C. W.A.)Took TREVARRACK in tow 0830 in 55° 52' N. 9° W.(SALVONIA 0300/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Intend proceed Liverpool with HARVESTER 0001/31, leaving SALVONIA in charge. Ship in tow, speed 3½ knots (HIGHLANDER 1245/30.) SALVONIA reports THAMES now assisting tow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1740/30.) Weather permitting, we will tow ship into Rothesay Bay at daylight 2nd. Ship abandoned. Engines appear in order. SALVONIA standing by (THAMES 1700/1.) Arrived SALVONIA and THAMES with TREVARRACK in tow (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0827/2.)

NICOLAS MICHALOS.

(Greek, 4348 Tons), German A/C attacking and gunning in 55° 37' N. 9° 33' W. (NICOLAOS MICHALOS. Recd. 1050/29.)

Convoy AGENT.

Enemy A/C bombing in 51° 38' N. 1° 15' E. (VERSATILE 1400/29.) Fighters being sent (Nore W/T. 1416/29.) 6 Bombs. No damage. (VERSATILE 1435/29.)

HOME SECRET.

20. 11. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.Contd.

Ramsgate. At 1610/29 two H.E. Bombs dropped on Harrison Road. 15 houses damaged, 2 seriously. No Naval casualty or damage. (N.C.I.C. Ramsgate 1615/29 and 1605/29.)

Plymouth. Attacked between 1836 and 1957/29 by about 25 A/C. About 10 H.E. and many hundreds of Incendiary Bombs dropped. About 150 fires started but all soon under control and most extinguished by daybreak. No naval casualties reported, but of civilians 2 killed, 22 severely and 22 slightly wounded. Slight damage to Naval buildings. (C in C;W.A. 1555/29 to Adty.)

Orkneys. At 1433 one enemy A/C approached Orkneys from N. West height 20000; remained inside prohibited area for about one hour and was engaged by shore batteries with H.A.P. Fighters from Seahorse and Castletown endeavoured to intercept but owing to low clouds and variations of heights no sightings obtained. A/C finally left on S.E. course and was last plotted 50 miles East of Wick at 1616. Good R/T and D/L plots were received. (Ltr.C.-in-C. 1930/29 to Adty.)

Harwich. 3 German Mines, type unidentified, cut by Fleet Minesweepers in Q.Z.3. One at 1240 in 51° 50' N. 1° 49' E., and one at 1245 in 51° 49' N. 1° 49' 30" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1557/29.)

Liverpool. My 1810/27. At 1625/27 s.s. BRUNSWICK BA detonated a small Magnetic Mine 110° Bar Light Vessel 1½ miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1612/29.)

CATRINE. damaged. CATRINE (British, 5818 Tons) damaged by Mine at 1345 today near Q.1. Black Buoy in Queens Channel. Hoped bring her up harbour tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2225/29) While being towed into harbour, parted tow and was blown on to training bank near Burbo Buoy. Position serious but not hopeless. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2055/30) Anchored off Tranmere Bench and discharging cargo.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1547/31.)

Three Mines/

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. Cont.

Three mines detonated p.m. today in . .8.74 in position about 7.5 miles 318 degrees from Nelson Buoy. In view of this and N.O.I.C. Isle of Man's 1135 /29/10 repeated to you and the fact that all available L L and S A Sweepers are fully employed on Liverpool Channels the provision of at least 4 additional sweepers for Preston and Barrow Channels is an urgent necessity.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1844/29 to C. in C.W.A.

Mine report for 24 hours ending 1800/29. Exploded by S A Sweeper 1, by LL8, by S.S. CATRINE 1; self detonated 2 vicinity of Bar Lt. V., 3 in Q.Z.8.74 about 7.5 miles 318 degrees from Nelson Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2039/29.)

Portsmouth.

Cancel my 0950/28. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1716/29.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Mines at Stadlandet.

My 2054/17 not to C in C Rosyth. Further enquiries have elicited the report that the Germans have not repeat not laid mines at Staadlandet. Graded C2 repeat C2.

2. Information about the lights in the Inner Lead are contradictory but it is believed that some lights have been extinguished in the Bud area including Huso Light. (D.D.I.C. 1918/29 to C. in CHF)

//

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

NEWPORT.	(Town-Class Destroyer) Only one engine effective. Intend to make Lough Foyle (NEWPORT 1201/29 to Adty.)
SALISBURY.	(Town-Class Destroyer) Parted company at 0500/27 with condenser trouble. (NEWPORT 1201/29 to Adty.)
SWANSEA CASTLE.	(M/S Trawler). My 1906/28. Returned to harbour with defects. Possible delay 24 hours (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1609/29).
BROCK.	My 1200/29. Sailing delayed by Boiler trouble. (F.O.I.C. London 1701/29).
PELICAN.	Report of damage by collision. Vessel is seaworthy for voyage to southern port, but requires docking (A.S. Rosyth 1705/29).
M.L.171.	Unable to sail owing to defective Tank. (Capt. M/L. 1825/29 to C.in C. Nore).
BARNHEAD.	Reports run ashore at 2000 today in 63° 30' N. 18° W. All crew landed. Tug being sent. (F.O. Iceland 1834/29 to Adty.)
LE TIGRE DEODAR M.L.156.	My 1558/28. Will not sail owing to defects (C.in C. Nore 2050/29).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Tankers	Scheme for requisitioning (Ministry of Shipping 1815/29 to S.T.O's) (Original in Lion copyonly)
Convoys	Positions (D.T.D.,1131/29 to C. in C., H.F.)
F.S. 73	28 ships, 5 additional from Middlesbrough. (F.O.I.C., Tyne 0948/29 N.C.S.O. Humber 1125/29)
W.N. 60	Arrived 0945/29 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0955/29)
F.N. 68	Arrived 1025/29. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1031/29) All Tyne ships arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1621/29) Humber ships arrived except VESTMANROD (N.C.SO. Humber 1644/29)
S.C. 18	Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1101/29) GEDDINGTON COURT with planes. (C.O.A.C., 1102/29)
F.N. 70	Delay in starting due engine breakdown of Commodore's ship. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1131/29) 1020/29, 18 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1303/29, 1729/29) Ships joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1646/29)
E,N. 48	My 2347/28 Delete AMAZONE (N.C.S.O. Methil 1131/29)
O.B. 269	Route (D.T.D., 1152/29)
H.G. 49	Escorted by LEITH and 3 "KINGSTON" trawlers sails from Straits 1500/29. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1154/29)
O.G. 48	Sailed BLUEBELL and FOLKESTONE to escort O.G.O. 48 and O.G.C. 48 respectively. WESTCOTT to escort O.G. 48 also CANDYTUFT to join on completion A/S practice. (F.O.I.C Liverpool 1225/29) Sailed 1345/29 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1350/29, 1351/29) O.G.O. 48, 0500/30. 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1545/29)
F.S. 72	Reported in Barrow Deep, 16 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1239/29)

/O.B. 267

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
O.B. 267	Amended route. (D.T.D. 1247/29) (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1255/29)
O.B.M. 267	1716/29 H.M.T. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1732 and 1733/29.
W.N. 61	List (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1303/29) W.N. 61,0 1300/29, no escort, 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1500/29)
F.N. 71	1120/29, 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1318/29) List (1804/29)
H.X. 99	Date and route. ALAUNIA and PORPOISE return to Halifax. (D.T.D., 1334/29)
F.S. 74	Sailed 1400/29 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1449 29, 1451/29) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1618/29)
F.N. and F.S.	Additional code words and call signs. Ocean, Plumb, Prize, Radio. (D.S.D., 1603/29)
SLS 59	Sailing telegram as amended (D.T.D. 1610/29)
S.L. 59	Route for R.V. (D.T.D., 1614/29)
O.B. 270	Route (D.T.D., 1723/29)
S.C. 16	From R.V. steer direct to 55° 50' N., 09° 00' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1914/29)
F.S. 71	All ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 2318/29)
F.S. 75	Sailed 2300/29. 17 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2339/29)
O.B.C.	0001/29 sailed O.B.C. Escort CRISPIN. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0016/29 to Admty.)
H.X. 97	If no alterations to route received, steer for position 125 miles south of last position on Standard Route thence to destination. (D. T.D., 0825/29 to G.B.M.S.1.)
W.N. 60	Estimate W.N. 60 will meet H.N. 48 about 0300/29. (C. in C., Rosyth 0020/29 to JASON, WOLFHOUND, CURACOA, FOXTROT, BLACKFLY, BERKSHIRE, INDIAN STAR.

/H.X. 97.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	**Shipping**
H.X. 97 O.B. 267	My 1916/28. H.X. 97 has been scattered by gale and will probably be following route through: 56° 44' N., 28° 40' W., 59° 05' N., 16° 31' W., 57° 08' N., 10° 00' W., not that given in my 1230/28 paragraph A. It is estimated Convoy H.X. 97 will cross meridian of 13° W during forenoon/29. Leave Convoy O.B. 265 at 2359/29 to collect and join H.X. 97. (C. in C., W.A., 0020/29 to WHITEHALL, VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA, RHODODENDRON, WORCESTERSHIRE, HEPATICA)
H.X. 97	On leaving Lough Foyle, proceed towards position 57° 00' N., 16° 32' W., Any ships of H.X. 97 encountered to be collected and escorted back. (C. in C., W.A., 1614/29 to VISCOUNT)
	My 0020/29. Proceed to sweep towards position 58° 55' N., 17° 10' W., and thence on a course 251° until dark 30/12. WHITEHALL and VANQUISHER are then to return to base, passing through 57° 00' N., 16° 32' W., and thence south of Rockall. WINCHELSEA, GENTIAN and RHODODENDRON are similarly to return to base, passing through 59° 05' N., 16° 32' W., and 57° 08' N., 10° 00' W. Any ships of H.X. 97 encountered are to be collected and escorted. (C. in C., W.A., 1624/29 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN, RHODODENDRON)
	Your 1745/28. Do not now try to pass my 1133/28 to Commodore or repeat for convoy. Escort will be told to try and meet convoy on route given in your 1745/28. (C. in C., W.A. 0022/29 to WORCESTERSHIRE)
	Some scattered ships of convoy H.X. 97 are expected to be in approximate position 057° 32' N., 022° 33' W., at noon/29th. Routed 057° 00' N., 016° 30' W., thence to North Channel. If in vicinity follow this route. (C. in C., W.A., 0638/29 to SALISBURY RICHMOND, NEWPORT.
S.L.S. 58	BALFE's 0935. Request Cmdre. Signals his course and degrees of accuracy of position. My position is 056° 00' N., 008° 00' W., visibility 2 miles. (WELLINGTON, 1100/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Commodore.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys.	Shipping
S.L.S. 58-Contd	Commodore S.L.S. 58 in BALFE reports his noon position as 55° 37' N., 09° 11' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1302/29 to WELLINGTON)
	Convoy met in position 055° 40' N., 108° 45' W., TREVARRACK abandoned in sinking condition, crew on board NORTH DEVON. Mate Mr. R. Brown and Wireless Operator H. Brown lost overboard. (WELLINGTON 1430/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
	Your 1152/24. It is observed that inward route from rendezvous was not repeated to Commodore to S.L.S. 58 with the result that when Convoy was not met on 27/12 both escort and aircraft searched for it along a route which the Commodore had not been given. Requested that in future the inward route may always be given to Commodore of an unescorted convoy using the secret position method. (D.T.D. 2313/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
E.N. 49 W.N. 62	Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 49 sailing at 1830/30. On meeting transfer to W.N. 62 due Cape Wrath 0330/1 and Duncansby 1330/1. Code word for E.N. 49 MIGHT and W.N. 62 MUTUAL. (C. in C., Rosyth 1103/29, to FLEETWOOD)
Escort Groups	Cancel my 1545/23. As both H.X. 98 and H.X. 100 are due at R/V on 13/1, order of sailing of escort groups is revised as follows:- 3rd O.B. 267 Dec. 30 meet S.L.S. 59 6th O.B. 268 Jan. 1 meet S.C. 17 2nd O.B. 269 Jan. 3 meet H.X. 99 7th O.B. 270 Jan. 5 meet S.L. 60 4th O.G. 49 Jan. 7 meet H.G. 49 and SLS 60 8th O.B. 271 Jan. 9 meet H.X. 98 1st no out escort Jan 11 meet H.X. 100 5th O.B. 272 Jan. 11 meet S.C. 18 3rd O.B. 273 Jan. 13 meet H.X. 101 (C. in C., W.A., 1126/29)
F.N. 71.	Southend 29/12 Departure with convoy F.N. 71 H.M. M/L 169 for Humber for onward passage to Fort William. War Dept. M/L SWALLOW for Harwich for onward routeing to Brightlingsea. Expected time of arrival Harwich before dark. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1211/29)

/W.N. 62.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping
W.N. 62 F.S. 78	F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1230/27 and 0942/28 MANCHESTER CITY in W.N. 62 is due Methil a.m. 1941 bound for Tyne. As ship is unable to anchor and no escort is immediately available to take her to Tyne intend that she should proceed alongside at Rosyth and sail so as to join F.S. 78 which is due to leave Methil at 1400/3/1. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1221/29)
S.C. 16	If any of S.C. 16 are met instruct them to proceed direct to 55° 50' N., 09° 00' W and not through 56° 10' N., 13° 30' W., as directed in my 1428/26 to avoid U-Boat in 55° 20' N., 13° 10' W. Estimated to be going northward. (C. in C., W.A., 1224/29) to ACTIVE, HEATHER, GEORGETOWN, PICOTTEE)
	GEORGETOWN not met is returning from 054° 08' N., 017° 01' W., Am escorting SCOTTISH STANDARD in 053° 53' N., 017° 20' W visibility 2 miles. S.C. 16 estimated approximately 100 miles astern having been hove to for 2 days and SCOTTISH STANDARD lost touch 25/12. In view of oil fuel shortage propose to remain in company. Your 1224/29 received. (ACTIVE, 1345/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
	Proceed with despatch to Lough Foyle to refuel then rejoin S.C. 16. SCOTTISH STANDARD proceed independently. (C. in C., W.A., to ACTIVE.)
	S.C. 16 has been ordered to steer from R/V position direct to 55° 50' N., 09° 00' W., estimate convoy should have passed through R/V at 1300/29. (C. in C., W.A., 2002/29 to GEORGETOWN)
	If fuel permits endeavour locate S.C. 16. If not proceed with despatch to Lough Foyle re-fuel and re-join convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 2014/29 to GEORGETOWN)
W.N. 61.	Reference N.C.S.O Clyde's 2150/28. Amend number of ships to read 15. CHEMONG has returned Clyde owing to weather. (N.C.S.O.S Clyde, 1434/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/O.B. 266.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping.
O.B. 266	To avoid U-Boat reported between 53° 30' N., and 57° 00' N., 15° W., and 17° W., amended route for O.B. 266. 56° 25' N., 12° 00' W., 55° 00' N., 15° 00' W., 53° 00' N., 25° 00' W. Convoy disperse in 22° W. (C. in C., W.A., 1632/29 to MALLOW)
O.B. 267	Reference my 1359/26 and 1255/29 para. G. new noon rendezvous are:- Noon 1/1/41 56° 02' N., 11° 53' W., Noon 2/1/41 54° 00'N 15° 57' W. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1640/29 to Admty.)
F.S. 74	RINGDOVE sailed to join F.S. 74 on passage to Humber. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1718/29)
E.N. 48 W.N. 61	My 1031/27. JASON not to proceed to Scapa but to continue with E.N. 48 until W.N. 61 is met. Due Cape Wrath 2330/30. (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/29 to JASON)
3 M.V's	Intend sailing at 1800/30. 3 M/Vs including 1 tanker for St. Helens Roads E.T.A., 0830/31, 1 M/V for Poole, escorted by Portsmouth A/S Trawlers. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1944/29 to C. in C., W.A., amended received 2022/29)
Limit of 40 Ships	In future not more than 40 ships should sail in any one convoy. H.X. 100, any surplus over 40 should transfer to H.X. 98 if time and weather permit, failing which they should be held for later H.X. or S.C. convoy (D.T.D., 1246/29 to C.O.A.C., Halifax)

MOST SECRET

29.12.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Troop Convoys	Shipping
W.S. 5 B	J. 30 will not now arrive Avonmouth. J. 27 will not leave Liverpool until 31/12. MONARCH OF BERMUDA will arrive Avonmouth in next day or two for discharge of cargo and preparation for further voyage. Total military personnel to embark approximately 1000 possibly increasing up to 1500 but capacity of ship is 2169 all ranks. Embarkation date will be as for J. 30. (D. of S.T., 0500/29 to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth)
	PENNLAND arriving Belfast 30/12 from Clyde for drydocking urgently needs boiler cleaning and other minor repairs in order that speed of 15 knots essential for convoy W.S. 5 (b) may be obtained. Vessel is required back in Clyde by 5/1. Request that if possible boiler cleaning etc., be carried out in Belfast in view of shortness of time available. Request early report whether you consider speed of 15 knots can be maintained after drydocking, boiler cleaning and repairs possible in time available have been carried out. (D. of S.T., 1119/29 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)
BOSSO EUMAEUS	Your 1832/28. It is not considered desirable that ships should be routed down one Meridian of Longitude for such a distance as has been done in this case. Request you will make some diversion between 61° 10' N., and 40° N. (D.O.D. (H) 1141/29 to F.O.C.N.P.)
	Sailed OTTAWA escorting ABBOSSO and EUMAES in accordance with my 1038/28 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1535/29)
SALOPIAN ABOSSO EUMAEUS	My 1832/28 amend route. Inform ABOSSO and EUMAEUS accordingly. (F.O.C.N.P. 1450/29 to SALOPIAN)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider

DUCHESS OF YORK — Proceed to Ponta Delgada (D.S.O. 0416/29 to DUCHESS OF YORK)

Advice to Ponta Delgada — My 2305/28. Ambassador Lisbon has been asked to inform Portuguese Government of contents of Telegram and to add
(1) That ship will arrive about noon today Sunday with troops on board.
(2) It is hoped that repairs can be effected within a very short period, but if this impracticable another Merchant Vessel will be sent to transhipp troops.
Request you will take necessary action locally. Corvette CYCLAMEN will also require to enter harbour to fuel. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0420/29 to Consul Ponta Delgada approved by V.C.N.S.)

Your 2241/28 to Admiralty only, approved.
A. Admiralty 2332/28. Ambassador Lisbon and Consul Ponta Delgada have been informed (1) that EMPIRE TROOPER will arrive about noon today Sunday with troops on board. (2) It is hoped repairs will be completed within a very short period but if this proves to be impracticable another merchant vessel will be sent to transhipp troops.
B. No warship other than CYCLAMEN is to enter territorial waters unless absolutely essential. Consul has been informed that CYCLAMEN will require fuel.
C. H.M. Submarine TRIDENT on patrol off Ponta Delgada at 0800/27 fired three torpedoes at Rumanian ship BONINE who refused to answer signals. Torpedoes missed, two exploded ashore, one has been salved and sent to Portugal. No admission as regards this occurrence has yet been made by us.
D. DUCHESS OF YORK has been diverted towards Ponta Delgada.
E. Inform Forces in Company with you that area 20 miles south of Island of San Miguel is a safe sanctuary for our Submarine during dark hours. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0455/29 to C.S. 10 approved V.C.N.S.)

/EMPIRE TROOPER...

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider-Contd.

EMPIRE TROOPER — Request you will inform EMPIRE TROOPER that it is of the utmost urgency that she should be able to leave Ponta Delgada at the earliest possible moment. Also that no troops are to be allowed out of the ship on any pretext. (V.C.N.S., 1035/29 to C.S. 10)

Gibraltar Arrivals — Gibraltar arrival 0730/29 ARGUS, DUNEDIN, WISHART, VELOX, VIDETTE, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE HEREWARD escorting NORTHERN PRINCE, CLAN MACDONALD, EMPIRE SONG. (S.O.I. Gib. 0 0746/29)

FURIOUS DUNEDIN — Admty. 1116/28. Intend to sail FURIOUS and DUNEDIN escorted by FORESTER and FURY for Freetown 1400/29. Expected time of arrival Freetown 0900 zone plus one Sunday 5/1. Escort will be ordered to part company by signal. Speed of advance 15 knots routed through 028° 50' N., 021° 35' W., 020° 00' N., 021° 00' W., thence direct. (F.O.C.N.A. 1048/29 to C. in C., S.A.)

W.S. 5 A. Destroyer Escort — Your 1048/29 FURIOUS and DUNEDIN proceed so as to R/V with convoy W.S. 5 A escorted by Force K at 0900N/3/1. Convoy expected to be in position 026° 00' N., 020° 25' W., at 0800 N /31 then routed through 012° 45' N., 019° 30' W., 00° 20' N 015° 00' W., estimated speed of advance 10½ knots. As Corvettes have been left behind only A/S Escort available whole convoy from there to Freetown will be ENCOUNTER and ILEX now accompanying VINDICTIVE. Suggest FORESTER and FURY shall remain with FURIOUS till destination if possible. (C. in C., S.A. 1145N/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE TROOPER — Very early report is required after arrival of EMPIRE TROOPER.
1. As to whether she can be made seaworthy at Ponta Delgada.
2. How long this will take. (D.O.D. (F) 1158/29 to Consul, Ponta Delgada)

/CLAN CUMMING.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider-Contd.

CLAN CUMMING — Report your position relative to "ROBIN". (D.O.D. (F) 1159/29 to CLAN CUMMING)

Force K. — FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK escorting Convoy W.S. 5 A position course and speed 1200/29 033° 18' N 019° 10' W., 214° 10½ knots routed through 031° 00' N., 021° 00' W., 012° 45' 019° 30' Rendezvous with DORSETSHIRE in 026° 00' N., 020° 25' W., at 0800/31 zone + One. (F.O.C.N.A., 1200/29 to CAUNA, MARON, FURIOUS, FORESTER, DUNEDIN, FURY)

DERBYSHIRE
BERWICK
KENYA

A. When EMPIRE TROOPER has entered Ponta Delgada, DERBYSHIRE is to be sent to Gibraltar.
Most undesirable that any of H.M. Ships other than CYCLAMEN should fuel at Ponta Delgada.
Retain BERWICK with you as long as fuel and her damage permits and then send her to Gibraltar.
Admiralty will keep you informed of the repair situation of EMPIRE TROOPER. On completion she is to be escorted to Gibraltar by KENYA and four corvettes. (D.O.D. (F) 1313/29 to C.S. 10)

DUCHESS OF YORK — Confirm messages your 1336/28 (Proceed to Gibraltar) and your 0416/29 (Proceed to Ponta Delgada)

EMPIRE TROOPER Repairs to. — 965/29 (Reply of Sir R. Campbell to F.O.) T.O. Despatch 1407/29)

FURIOUS
DUNEDIN — Gibraltar departure 1430/29 FURIOUS, DUNEDIN, FORESTER, FURY in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1048/29 (S.O(I) Gibraltar, 1452/29 to Admty.)

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL

N.O. 4. (a) 0830. (b) RENOWN 00
ARK ROYAL 00 25
My position course and speed are at 1900 035° 56' N., 009° (? 56') W. 090° 17½ knots When will dock be ready.
(S.O.Force H., 1651/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/DUCHESS OF YORK.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A abd Raider-Contd.

DUCHESS OF YORK — Your 1400/29 act in accordance with my 0416/29. Proceed to Ponta Delgada. (D.C. for D.D.O.D. 1707/29 to C.H.M.S. for DUCHESS OF YORK)

CLAN CUMMING — In addition to damage to EMPIRE TROOPER a German communique claims sinking one 6,000 ton ship which may be CLAN CUMMING with whom we have not been in touch since the action at 0700/25.
Proceed and search for possible survivors in area of action in approximate position 43° 40' N., 24° 30' W. The water for a radius of 60 miles round position should be covered. (D.O.D. 1715/29 to CALIFORNIA)

EMPIRE TROOPER Repairs to — No 966/29. My 965 (Reply of Sir R. Campbell to F.O.) (T.O.Despatch 1735/29)

EMPIRE TROOPER
CYCLAMEN
BERWICK
DERBYSHIRE
KENYA — EMPIRE TROOPER and CYCLAMEN have entered Ponta Delgada. BERWICK and DERBYSHIRE detached to proceed to Gibraltar. KENYA has 531 oil fuel remaining sufficient for 6 days normal standing. (F.O.C. 10th C.S. 1801/29 to Admty.)

BONAVENTURE — Gibraltar arrival 1800/29. BONAVENTURE. (S.O. (1) Gibraltar, 1802/29 to Admty)

DUCHESS OF YORK — My 1725/28. SS DUCHESS OF YORK is expected to arrive Ponta Delgada a.m. 30/12. (D.O.D. 1816/29 to TRIDENT)

Survivors — For GEORGIC, CLAN FORBES, CLAN FRAZER, MARSA, SHAKESPEARE, YORK WOOD, BEN NEVIS, MAHSEER, SOBO. Keep a special look out for possible survivors while passing between latitude 45° N., to 43° N. (D.O.D. 1817/29 to C.B.M.S. Area 1)

EMPIRE TROOPER — Your 1158 Ship mentioned will sail 1930 G.M.T 30/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1830/29 to Admty.

/CYCLAMEN.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider-Contd.

CYCLAMEN — CYCLAMEN arrived Ponta Delgada 1930 G.M.T. 29/12. (M.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1840/29 to Admty.)

CLAN CUMMING — Your 1715/29 to CALIFORNIA. Following have been received from CLAN CUMMING. Begins. Defects, proceeding Gibraltar. Position course and speed of advance 018° Robin 100 120° 12 knots. 1200/28. Ends. (F.O.C.N.A. 1842/29 to Admty.)

Force H. Position — My 1651 (No trace in War Reg.) para 2 cancel and substitute (1) my position course and speed at 1900 35° 56' N., 009° 56' W., course 86° speed 17½ knots altering to 105° at 0300. Request you inform (?Scottish) (S.O.Force H 2001/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MENELAUS
COSTA RICA
ATREUS — F.O.C.N.A. As 1842/29 continue the search ordered in A.T. 1715/29. MENELAUS, COSTA RICA and ATREUS are not yet accounted for. (D.O.D. (F) 2157/29 to CALIFORNIA)

ATREUS — My 2157/29 para. 2. Delete ATREUS. (D.D.O.D. (F) 0134/30 to CALIFORNIA)

CLAN CUMMING — Your 1715/29 CLAN CUMMING has arrived Gibraltar. Also passed to S.O.Force K. (F.O.C.N.A. 2222/29 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

SENATEUR DUHAMEL intercepted.

CAMITO reports French Trawler SENATEUR DUHAMEL intercepted in 33 degs 44 mins North 010 degs 26 mins West steering 095 degs at 1600/28. Sent in to Gibraltar expected time of arrival 1800/29.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1130/29 to Admty).

CUBA
INDOCHINOIS

Your 0135/27 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon.
In addition to men from CUBA, presumably crew of INDO-CHINOIS are still at Freetown awaiting repatriation.
Request you notify Admiralty and N.C.S.O Lisbon of number of officers and men involved so that arrangements may be made to take as many as possible on COLONIAL.
(Head of M. 1231/29 to C. in C. S.A).

Vichy Ships Allowed S. of Dakar.

Your 2311/28/11. My 2111/15/11 should be adhered to and Vichy Warships allowed to proceed south of Dakar. They should however be reported and if circumstances allow their destination checked.
(Head of M. 1350/29 to C. in C. S.A).

Floating Dock.

French floating dock with 3 tugs and trawler was in position 180 degs. Cape Tarifa 6 course 280 degs. at 1825/29.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1901/29 to North Atlantic Str

North Atlantic

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 1 routine A/S patrol 1 surface reconnaissance East. 1 escort for M.T. ship. 1 escort for convoy. 1 special A/S patrol Area covered 4° West to 8° 10' West.
(200 Group 1700/29).

LEITH.
KINGSTON JACINTH
KINGSTON TURQUOISE
KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE
H.G. 49.

Gibraltar Departure 29/12 1400 LEITH KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE escorting H.G. 49.
(S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1454/29).

Trawlers.

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE who sailed with H.G. 49 P.M. have been informed their destination is Liverpool.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2240/29 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NEPTUNE.
DELHI.
Legion
Movement.

Departure 1800/28 NEPTUNE to rendezvous with DELHI escortin TOUAREG and CAP DE PALMES.
(S.O.(I) Freetwon 0051N/29).

LLANDAFF.

Overdue shipping my 1105/25.
LLANDAFF arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown 0945B/29).

DELHI.
Corvettes.

Departure 0500/29 ASPHODEL and CALENDULA to rendezvous with DELHI as A/S escort.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1103N/29).

Force M.
NEPTUNE.

Your 2223/26 /. Flag of F.O. Force M. was struck in NEPTUNE at sunset V.A. Cunningham sailed for U.K. in ORONTES leaving Freetown 29/12.
(C. in C. S.A. 1117N/29 to Admty).

VIKINGS.

Departure 0930/29 French Armed Trawler VIKINGS for Duala expected to arrive 4/1/1941.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1136N/29).

Force L.
PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Your 1200 A/28 and your 1104A/28 (not to Admty). After re stocking with petrol and fuel if necessary on 31/12 Force L is to proceed Simonstown passing through position 022° 00'S. 000° 00'W., 030° 00'S., 010° 00'E. and adjusting speed so as to arrive p.m. 5/1. Boiler cleaning and overhauling of aircraft are to be started and anticipated date of readiness of service reported as soon as possible after arrival. PRETORIA CASTLE part company with Force L. on 31/12 and proceed Freetown so as to arrive p.m./5/1.

CORNWALL.

Your 1130/28. CORNWALL refit must be postponed temporarily. Further signal will be made.
(C. in C. 1305N/29 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.).

/BRITISH.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

BRITISH PREMIER feared lost.

My 2231/28. Master of HYDRONSSA has been interviewed and reports at 2100 G.M.T. on 24/12 in position 6.20 N. 13.38 W. he passed what appeared to be tanker on fire distant one mile, features indistinguishable. It is feared that this may have been BRITISH PREMIER reported overdue on S.O. (I) Freetown's 1848/27. MILFORD searched this area on 27/12 with no result. (C. in C. S.A. 1911/29 to Admty).

ENTERPRISE, NEWCASTLE, CUMBERLAND, QUEEN OF BERMUDA. ASTORIAS

Failing further enemy information, intend to detach ENTERPRISE so as to fuel from Oiler ARNDALE and store from LALTAVIA at F.O. on 1/1. When ENTERPRISE rejoins me NEWCASTLE will proceed to fuel and store, and CUMBERLAND will do so when NEWCASTLE returns. During these operations cruiser force will remain in L. 31 with ships fuelling within support distence. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will leave K.33 7/1 calling for water at a Plate port then proceed to Falkland Islands to covering force, probably subsequently (?visiting) (?Deception) Island (s). ASTURIAS fuels at Montevideo 9/1 then proceeds to K. 33.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1919Z/29 to C. in C. S.A.).

ASTURIAS Operation.

Operation against French ship permitted proceed to rendezvous with BALTAVIA who will be either at sea rendezvous Orange or at Anchorage F.O. until about 6/1. Obtain your rum from y her and transfer her personnel stores and mail for R.A.S.A.D., CUMBERLAND NEWCASTLE QUEEN OF BERMUDA and Falkland Isles. On completion return to patrol L. 32. Land ALCANTARA's mail at Montevideo next fuelling - probably 9/1. I will arrange visit.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1941Z/29 to ASTURIAS).

/Coast.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Coast Defences.

Your 1927B/18 and 1305B/19. In view of many requirements abroad decision on allocation of these guns is being postponed. In the meantime metal cage holdfasts for mounting these equipments on concrete, are to be constructed on the station. Report proposed sites for 6" guns at Walvis Bay and sites of 12 pounder guns.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action with raider, signal failure.

Your 1106/18 as to non reception of enemy reports transmitted by CARNARVON CASTLE. No entirely satisfactory explanation can be given for non receipt of these signals. Conditions on 500 kcs. were average. CARNARVON CASTLE heard ENTERPRISE transmitting at about 1300. At 1400 CARNARVON CASTLE intercepted a message from a merchant ship distant about 350 miles. ENTERPRISE also intercepted this message but was only about 200 miles from Merchant ship. Between 1000 - 1400 CARNARVON CASTLE was transmitting at intervals on 500 kcs. but she was not heard by ENTERPRISE or QUEEN OF BERMUDA on this frequency. This suggest non-reception on 500 kcs. was due to transmission failure or to stered relay being used subsequent to main aerial being shot away. There is no evidence that CARNARVON CASTLE's transmitter was not working correctly. Conditions on high frequency were not good and may have been cause of non reception. CARNARVON CASTLE's strength signal on 8330 kcs. at 1226 was R 4 - 0 and at 1407 was R 5. In either case times of broadcast of enemy reports on each frequency were not recorded. It is therefore possible CARNARVON CASTLE, between 1018 - 1025 and 1118 - 1125, was not transmitting on (same ?) frequency on which QUEEN OF BERMUDA was keeping watch. No significance is attached to the fact that Falkland Isles W/T did not receive these messages.
All times G.M.T.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2328Z/29 to C. in C. S.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Excess".

What is the latest date you can accept for ships passing the narrows in Operation EXCESS? (1 S.L. 1135/29 to C.in C. Med.)

Operation "Excess". Functions of Force "H".

I hope the repercussions of delay to operation "EXCESS" will be appreciated. It was of course unavoidably extensive, as there is no margin of light craft on which to work. All operations in Mediterranean are inevitably interlocked and in consequence of delay AEGEAN convoys are similarly out of phase and it is not possible to give firm date for support by major units of operations in Western Desert. Nor has it been possible to take advantage of the lull for maintenance owing to need of keeping ships at normal notice while date of "EXCESS" remained in doubt. The fact is that so long as Force "H" has a double function and has to look Westward as well as into Mediterranean such delays will be unavoidable and likely to increase in frequency with running of more convoys. The ideal is to have a force free from other commitments which covers convoys from West through to Narrows. Until this is achieved I fear dislocation of Fleet operations and shipping movements are bound to occur and in its trail will progressively (?group omitted) delay of (Corrupt group) shipping. (C.in C. Med. 2359/29 to Admty.)

HYPERION (sunk 22/12).

Admiralty 1942/26. Possibility for U-Boat cannot be altogether excluded but the following evidence points to a mine being the cause: (a) Italian U Boats usually fire at least three torpedoes which explode at end of run. No other explosion heard (b) Depth charges from ILEX probably countermined a mine in this area (c) Capt. (D) 14 reported sighting a number of floating mines in the visinity (d) No claim has been made by Italians (e) HYPERION's contact not confirmed by "J" class destroyer. (C.in C. Med., 1213/29 to Admty.)

10th Corvette Group.

PEONY, SALVIA HYACINTH and GLOXINIA are to join the 10th Corvette Group and are to use the call signs and delivery groups allocated to 32nd A/SM striking force and Senior Officer. (C.in C. Med., 1251/29 to Med. Stn.)

Boom Defences.

My 1658/19. Subject to your confirming the desirability of shipment the following additional boom defence gear will be loaded in S.S. BURDWAN leaving U.K. (date) Can storage ashore be arranged in order that ship may be released without delay. (D.B.D. 1306/29 to C.in C. Med.).

/ Mellaha Aerodrome ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mellaha Aerodrome. Commercial Secretary here finds previous Consul Tripoli reports following regarding Mellaha Aerodrome which is principal Civil Aerodrome in Libya. Already in 1938 it was extensively used for Military purposes and troops were quartered there. Barracks Offices and Stores cover large area West landing ground which lies within and at Western end Tripoli Motor racing-circuit about seven miles east Tripoli and less one mile from sea. Landmarks are race course, grandstand and salt heaps to east of landing ground. (Budapest T.H.I. 1335 Recd. 1500/29 to Admty.)

Air Report Tobruk Operational Summary No. 202 up to 1200/29/12/40. (?time) One Wellington bombed Tobruk starting a number of fires.

Sollum. Day 28/12. No bombing operations. In the course of two raids on Sollum Hurricanes intercepted 8 S.79's escorted by 7 CR 42's shooting down 1 S.79 and 1 CR 42 confirmed with one C.R.42 unconfirmed and damaging 4 S.79's. One Hurricane slight damage from bombing. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Bardia and Tobruk. No change in military situation Bardia.

Valona. (2) Greece Day 28/12. 3 Blenheims bombed Valona Harbour one bomb bursting 50 yards from a large ship. 3 Sunderlands patrolled south eastern Ionian Sea for enemy surface vessels.
(3) Sudan Day 28/12 No bombing operations.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1414/29).

French Fleet, Alexandria, pay. My 1601/24/11. Admi. Godfroy has been informed that pay representing that necessary for one third of his original complement is all that can be advanced in future and that it is considered that the number must be reduced in due course to 30%.
He accepts situation as regards money that will be advanced and appears to intend to reduce to new numbers.
I have authorised payment of 22,000 pounds for November as being retrospective.
(C.in C. Med. 1533/29, to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours, all times G.M.T. 0928 - 1029, 3 enemy formations probably fighters on reconnaissance flew over Malta at 1700 and 20,000 feet A.A. engaged. Six Hurricanes up no interception. 1415-1600. Ten Glenn Martin 431 flight despatched for photographic reconnaissance Pantellaria as requested by A.M.Signal X.972 26/12, but clouds at 2,000 feet prevented photography. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/29).

/ Troop Transports ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Troop Convoys.

Your 1619/14.
STIRLING CASTLE and HIGHLAND MONARCH ex W.S.4(a) are urgently required in U.K. and cannot therefore be used for movement of Italian prisoners to India but may be used for families to South Africa if desired.
Presume ships of B.N.11 and of "EMILY" could be utilised.
Ships ex W.S.4(b) are all urgently required in U.K. except that ANDES will probably be required to proceed to Australia from Egypt and could be used. ORCADES and STRATHALLAN could also be used if no other alternatives can meet requirements.
Remainder of W.S.4(b) should return to U.K. direct but presume you will use them for families to South Africa if required.
150 troops disembarked at Durban ex BRITANNIA should be distributed among returning W.S.4(b) ships for onward conveyance to U.K.
(D.S.T. 1717/29 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

UNIQUE
OSIRIS

F.O.C.N.A's 1746/28 (route instructions for UNIQUE).
Additional positions and instructions (V.A. Malta, 1828/29 to UNIQUE, OSIRIS).

Propaganda for Italy.

Following No. 32 from Chiefs of Staff to Commanders-in-Chief Middle East.
For your information in drafting communiques, object of our propaganda against Italy is to increase hatred of Germany and foster spirit of revolt against Mussolini and Fascist Regime giving impression that we distinguish between Italian nation and Fascist Regime. For this reason we are avoiding as much as possible public jeers at the Italian spirit.
Attitude of chivalry which has been shown by three Services to Italian armed forces has had excellent propaganda value in this direction. (1 S.L., 2117/29 to C.in C. Med.).

Greece.

Request for priority in supply from U.S.A. of mountain artillery ammunition.
(Mil. Mission, Athens, to W.O., 2310/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.N.11½ — Departure 0200Z/29. CALEDON, SHORNHAM, AUCKLAND with B.N.11½.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0230Z/29 to Admty.)

RANCHI
K.D.2. — Durban arrival 29/12 RANCHI and Convoy K.D.Two.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0540Z/29 to Admty.)

Indian Minesweepers — Your 1554/15 (re building of minesweepers by Government of India)
(1) New construction programme for L.D. of India comprises the following craft. Bangor/Bathurst twelve. A/S-M/S Trawlers, forty-three. Fairmiles, Nineteen. Motor launches, twelve. Motor minesweepers, eight. (2) Before considering your proposal to increase number of motor minesweepers from eight to ten Government of India request confirmation that the number ten is intended and full reasons for proposed increase. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0601/29, to Admty.)

STAGPOOL. — Your 1223/19 re STAGPOOL. Ship is at present at Colombo earmarked for operation at Trincomalee (date) but if urgently required in Mediterranean she could be sailed to join B.N.13 from Aden.
This or similar ship will be required for operation "CANVAS" and any combined operations in Red Sea. (C.in C. E.I., 0602Z/29 to C.in C. Med. amended 14382/29).

TALAMBA — Your 1152/26 (TALAMBA to sail for Mauritius to escort troops) TALAMBA can proceed from Durban to Suez without calling at Aden provided water consumption does not exceed 43 tons per day.
(S.S.T.O. India, 0604Z/29, to C.in C. E.I.)

COLOMBO. — COLOMBO is to leave Patrol off Kismayu so as to arrive Mombasa 0300Z/January 1.
(C.in C. E.I., 0806Z/29, to COLOMBO).

A/S Vessels. — Admiralty 1356/23/12 (A/S vessels to take over duties of MOONSTONE & AMBLER urgently required in Mediterranean). Although NETRAVATI is not so suitable as AMBER owing to low endurance and large size, intend to sail AMBER in B.N.12 for Suez.
(S.N.O. Red Sea, 1108Z/29 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ "Q" Messages
Suspected Raider ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

"Q" Messages Suspected Raider.

(1) My 0830/28 ("Q" Report from BEACON-STREET) of GYJB. Efforts to obtain confirmation of cancellation not yet successful.
(2) Following took place at G.M.T. on 29.(a) at 0313 British ship BRITISH LOYALTY when in position 014 degs. 20' North 051 degs. 20' East made a Q distress message reporting being followed by a suspicious vessel. (b) at 0328 a description of vessel and its course West speed 10½ knots was broadcast. (c) At 0401 cancellation of message was made stating vessel appeared friendly. Aden W/T Station reported cancellation appeared to be from a different transmitter.
(d) Effort to establish communication with BRITISH LOYALTY's secret call sign since 0703 have not succeeded.
(3) In absence of more definite information I am assuming there is a raider in Gulf of Aden. (Note paragraph 3 cancelled see 1436Z/29) (C.in C. E.I., 1146Z/29 to East Indies Sqdn. Admty. etc.)

Dispositions

My 1146/29 (1) Following are approximate disposition of ships 29/12:-
(A) KINGSTON sails from Aden to Bombay at 1300Z.
(B) LEANDER in approximate position 015°N. 063° 50' E. at 0630Z escorting Bombay portion of B.N.12 (three ships 12 knots).
(C) SHROPSHIRE in position 00[illegible]° 50' N. 051° E. at 1130Z proceeding 25 knots towards Socotra.
(D) RATNAGIRI in position 014° 25' N. 052° 30' E. at 0300Z proceeding Aden keeping to Northward side of Gulf.
(ii) Ships in paragraph (i) less RATNAGIRI are to decode signals addressed to Force 'W'.
(C.in C. E.I., 1234Z/29 to E. Indies Sqdn.)

426. My 1146/29. para 2 (B) following recd. by Aden W/T (begins) Course West speed ten and half description Ordinary Three Island Cargo Vessel 5500 repeated 5500 tons gross large Sampson Mast on Pool Cabs repeated Pool Cabs Wing bridge foremast shorter than most Ends.
(C.in C. E.I., 13122/29 to Admty.)

My 1146/29. Cancel paragraph 3. BRITISH LOYALTY has now made a message in accordance with Admiralty message D.V.
My 1234/29 not to N.O.I.C. Kilindini.
Ship in paragraph (1)(C) is proceeding in execution of previous orders.
(C.in C. E.I., 14362/29, to East Indies Sqdn.)

/ Air Report .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Report.

Summary No.200 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 29/12. 0955 G.M.T. three Blenheims 8 Squadron attacked M.T. repair shops Comboleia (Dossie). Two Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escorts for convoy B.N.18. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1726/29).

China.

My 0904Z/28. Following is from Governor Straits Settlements and C.in C. China in continuation.

Indo-China, relations.

Our impression is that combined effects of Allied successes against Italy and Trade restrictions against Indo China have brought Decoux to consider how far he can withdrawn from Anti-British policy, born of bitterness of Oran and fostered by pressure of Japan and Armistice commission. Both he and Vichy are inclined to show a little more independence of policy as chance of an early Axis victory recedes, and French Community in Indo-China realizes, though some show of co-operation with Japan and Vichy is necessary for their independent political existence, co-operation with us is equally necessary for their economic existence. An open policy of co-operation with us is hardly to be expected, but they have not yet succumbed to policy of complete subservience to Japan. Out two main needs are trade with Indo China and maintenance of a Regime there with some independence of Japan. Since these are also their own needs there exists a basis of co-operation. If we are too uncompromising there is yet danger they may be forced into arms of Japan. (C.in C. China, 0821Z/29 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

HOPEPLAK
KOTA AGOENG

My 1041/21. Both ships arrived Panama. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 2219/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.12.1940. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Raiders. My 0700Z/27. Amendments and additions to raider descriptions and intelligence of movements. (A.C.N.B., 2000Z/29 to Admty., etc.) Original in Lion copy only.

Nauru Raider. Your telegram No. 257. (regret to learn of attack on Nauru). Acting Resident Commissioner Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony reports no sign of raider yet observed in Ocean Island and that immediate crisis is passed. Precautions however are being maintained.
Telegram from Australian Commonwealth Naval Board indicates great material damage done but no casualties, also that raider bore Japanese name and markings.
Following telegram subsequently received from Admiralty Reporting Officer, Nauru, through Australian Commonwealth Naval Board (repeats A.C.N.B. 2040Z/27 to Admty. etc.)
(High Commissioner, Western Pacific, No.275, 29/12, to Colonial Office, recd. 0804/29).

HOBART
MANOORA
DOOMBA

HOBART departed Fremantly 26/12 for Sydney.
MANOORA departed Samarai 29/12 for Ocean Is.
DOOMBA departed Sydney 29/12 for Hobart.
(A.C.N.B. 1325Z/29 to Admty. etc.).

U.S.9. My 0713 18/11 and New Zealand Naval Board 0131/4. U.S.9. Troop commitments Australian 11714 New Zealand 3770 with approximately 320 R.A.N. 220 R.A.A.F. additional and possibly 300 New Zealand Naval ratings. NIEUW AMSTERDAM allotted to New Zealand, QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA will embark Sydney, MAURETANIA Melbourne.
(A.C.N.B. 1331Z/29 to D. of S.T.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

REX. Your 1530/20 (Asking name of Italian ship at Trieste).
(C.in C. A.W.I., 0923/29 to Admty.)

LELLO. Departure 28/12. Italian Ship LELLO for Valencia. (Barcelona, 1259/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.12.1940.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ARACATACA (torpedoed 29/11) — My 2140/23 all survivors left today Sunday in ANDALUCIA STAR. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 2052/29 to Admty.)

1115/28. — (?U-Boat) was in position (?056 degrees) 20' North 013 degrees 00' West at 1115/28. (MARSDALE, 0914/29, to F.O.C.N.P.)

0446. — D/F bearings at 0446/29 G.M.T. indicate a U-Boat still operating in the Freetown-Cape Verde area. (D.D.I.C. 0941/29).

My 0941/29. Add - Simonstown 317/2 Durban 310/3.

D/F bearings indicates that U-Boat possibly within 50 miles of Monrovia. On way to meet convoy carry out Anti-submarine sweep parallel to coast 20 to 30 miles north from coast. (C.in C. S.A. to ASPHODEL, CALENDULA, 1015 N/29).

Unknown originator Ref. 0914 (Presumably 0914/29 from "MARSDALE" reporting U-Boat). Request degree of accuracy of position given. Commodore of ship has reported being bombed in position 055 degrees 34' 009 degrees 27'. (WELLINGTON, 1131/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

1712. — My 1234/29. D/F bearings at 1712/29 confirm presence of U/Boat between 58° N. and 59° N. and W. of 20° W. (D.D.I.C. 1742/29).

My 2154/29. Unless you have definite evidence that you are in contact with U-Boat proceed to rejoin convoy at 0600/30. (C.in C. Rosyth 2258/29 to FOXTROT).

Submarines Reported.

2245. — By D/F at 2245/29, position of unknown enemy unit, probable U Boat was about 280 miles S.W. of Lands End. (D.D.I.C. 2340/29).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 was in about 39° N. 15° W. on 27th.
1 to eastward of Azores.
1 arriving Gironde to-day.
4 in N.W. Approaches probably between 54° N. and 57° N. 15° W. and 16° 30' W.

/ German. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (contd.)

German.
1 between Freetown and Cape de Verde Islands
1 may be about 46° N. 9° W. bound for Lorient.
1 between 55° 30' N. and 56° 30' N. 12° W. and 14° W.
1 possibly within 60 miles of Bloody Foreland.
1 between 57° 30' N. and 59° N. 15° W. and 17° W.
2 between 58° N. and 60° N. 20° W. and 22° W.
1 south of Iceland.
1 possibly about 60° N. 10° W. homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1234/29).

Submarines Attacked.

By TUNA. 18/12.

TUNA reports at 0430/18 in position 045° 28' N. 002° 27' W. attacked U.Boat possibly German with torpedo and gun. U Boat steering North apparently making rendezvous was hit not vitally by one Shell and was chased for 53 minutes. Two Escort vessels then arrived and forced TUNA to dive. At 2314/18 in position 045° 28' N. 001° 38' W. sank by gunfire armed Tug steering 190°.
Intense A/S activity by air, trawlers, and 3 German Minesweepers M. one class on 27/12. Seaplane patrol encountered as far as 75 miles Southwest of Whistle Buoy.
(V.A.S., 1019/29, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

30.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A further statement in the press is reported today from Stockholm to the effect that the maximum draught for ships using the Kiel Canal is five metres only until the existing obstruction can be cleared.
The S/M TUNA reports today that at 2314 on the 18th she sank by gunfire an enemy Armed Trawler off the Gironde.

British Air Activity.

The Dockyard and Shipping at Brest, and the Dockyard and U/Boats at Lorient were again attacked by our A/C last night; and the Routine patrols in the Rosyth Area were flown during this forenoon.

Enemy Air Activity.

The S.S. TREVARRACK, bombed yesterday in Convoy S.L.58, was taken in tow early this morning and is making for port; and it is reported today that at 2010 last night two H.E. bombs and several Incendiary Bombs were dropped at Deptford, causing considerable damage to some Naval buildings but no apparent injury to any Naval stores.

Mining.

At Liverpool today VENOMOUS, the tanker DORCASIA of 8053 tons, and the Steam Coaster CALCIUM, were all damaged by mine at different points in the approaches to the Port; and VENOMOUS was safely berthed tonight in the Gladstone Dock.

MOST SECRET.

30.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider.

Force H. (R NOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 Destroyers arrived at Gibraltar at 0900/30. The EMPIRE TROOPER had been holed by a 5.9 inch shell just above water line, flooding the fore hold. The water was being pumped out and a plate welded on. She left Ponta Delgada at 2300/30. The ARABISTAN had also been hit above the water line and was possibly the 6000 ton ship claimed in the German communique. The MENELAUS and COSTA RICA had been sent at 2132/26 in 39°15'N., 21° 47'W and far from R/V. given by Commodore, Convoy, steering South. The Commodore was of opinion they had gone on. At 1800/30 they were reported with DORSETSHIRE in 23° 43 N., 20° 14'W. (about 480 miles north of Cape Verde Is.)

Vichy French.

There is no objection to the French floating dock (sighted off Cape Tarifa yesterday) proceeding to a French Colonial port, but if it appears to be going occupied Franch it is to be intercepted.

Operation "Ration" is to be put into force tomorrow 31/12 and subsequent days, the fact of the RENOWN being in dock at Gibraltar being accepted. The object of "Ration" is to prevent the French making a hole in our blockade. Five destroyers will carry out this operation.

North Atlantic.

The duties of Force H are defined in Adty. 1152/30. British NALGORA, 6579 tons, made a raider report at 1434 today, but the suspicious ship proved to be H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

30.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

The American ship ALGIC, 5496 tons, reported a suspicious vessel similar to a tanker in 25.03 S., 1.10 E., at 1952 G.M.T. today.

Mediterranean.

R.A.F. Wellingtons bombed Naples last night and observed several bursts near the customs jetty. Battleships and destroyers there appeared to have steam up.

Malta was raider from 1120 and three bombs dropped on Luqa aerodrome. The raid was followed by 2 other large formations but both turned back 8 miles N.E. and 38 miles N of Grand Harbour, respectively.

East Indies.

As the Italians may be contemplating a raid on Abadan ~~the~~ the Shat El Arab area, it is understood that COCKCHAFER (river gunboat -ex-Yangtse Flotilla) is to be moored in the vicinity of Abadan.

America and West Indies.

Washington reports information from a D/F bearing of a German warship 104° from the coastguard station at Southampton, Long Island, 4 miles E. of Shittbruneck Light, at 1200Z today. Further particulars have been asked for.

MOST SECRET.

30.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

Convoy U.S.8 (QUEEN MARY, AWATEA, AQUITANIA, DOMINION MONARCH, and MAURETANIA with troops for the Middle East, assembled this morning at a R/V in the Western Bass Straits, escorted by CANBERRA.

The use of a base by enemy raider in the Marshall Islands has been reported by the Chief Officer of RANGITANE, one of their victims.

MOST SECRET.

30. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Policy.

"STORM" Messages. It has been agreed with Ministry of Shipping, and War Office have been informed semi officially, that Admiralty will inform all above addressees of circumstances liable to make a considerable change in the importance of any area of Naval interest so that all concerned may make any changes necessary to take special defensive measures.

2. Information will be sent by Most Secret Message in following form:-
Prefix "Storm".
(a) Place.
(b) Cause of change in importance.
(c) Commencing date.
(d) Ending date.
(e) Special requirements if any.
(D. of L.D. 1952/30 to Air Ministry, War Office, Fighter Command, A/A Command Home Forces.)

Oil-Fuel for Swedish Navy. Suggesting that occasional rations of Oil-Fuel be allowed to Sweden for her Navy. Reasons. (N.A. Stockholm 1535/30. to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/30. (D.C. 1155/30.)
At 2330/30. (D.C. 2339/30.)

Dover. Withdrawal of Guns. My 1828/27 and your 2245/27. Details of Transfer. (D. of L.D. 1321/30, to C.N.C. Home Forces.) Your 1828/27. War Office concur. Please arrange direct with Home Forces and keep informed. (Dacoast Four 1550/30 to Adty.)

Movements.

SALOPIAN, GARLAND. Sailed as by F.O.C.N.F. 1830/28 and 1832/28. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0034/30.)

BULLDOG. Sailed for Liverpool (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0654/30.) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1535/30.)

BROKE. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0943/30.)

WOLFE/

MOST SECRET.

30. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

WOLFE.
CALICIA.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1000/30.)

REPULSE.
BERING.
SOMALI.
MATABELE.

My position course and speed are at 0800/30 060° 09' North 014° 56' West 110° 17 knots with two destroyers in company. Detached REPULSE Escort for WORCESTERSHIRE at 1800/29 in position 060° 05' North 021° 50' West course 056° 14 knots, ordered escort her to Minches and then return to Scapa. (REPULSE 1045/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Expect arrive with SOMALI and MATABELE at 0500/31. (REPULSE 1826/30 to A.C.O.S.)

AUSTRALIA.

Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1518/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines today. 5 Trawlers. (A. C. O. S. 1536/30.)

WIDGEON.

Arrived 1532. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1557/30.)

FITZROY.

Sailed 1715. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1743/30.)

ANTELOPE.
WALKOTT.
VISCOUNT.

Entered, fuelled, and sailed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1809/30.)

LA CAPRICIEUSE.

Sailed for Barrow to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1814/30. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1835/30.)

KASHMIR.
JUPITER.
JAGUAR.

Arrived Plymouth 1739/30. (C. in C. W.A. 0036/31.)

Operations.

Dover.

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 4 rounds into the sea between 0900 and 0910 today. (V.A. Dover 1734/30.)

Northern Patrol/

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Northern Patrol. NIGERIA leave Patrol at 1600/30 and return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1030/30 to F.O. 18th C.S.)

Submarines.

TUNA. Armed Tug sunk. At 2314/18 sank by gunfire an Armed Tug in 45° 38' N. 1° 38' W. (TUNA 0100/30 to Capt. S.2.)

UNDAUNTED. Arrived with LA CAPRICIEUSE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0940/30.)

L. 23. Will be exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A. C. C. S. 1148/30.)

UNBEATEN. My 1443/28. Sailed 1215 for Dartmouth, escorted by PHILANTE.(N.O.I.C. Barrow 1235/30.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F. O. I. C. Greenock 1450/30.)

H.44. Request be sailed for Rothesay with despatch on completion. (Capt. S.7. 1513/30 to Cdre. Sheerness.)

SEAWOLF. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1537/30.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/31. (V.A.S. 1734/30 and 2301/30.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Patrols ordered today: STAB. at 0930, BERT, STAND, HORNLI all P.M. C. in C. Rosyth 0730/30.)
My 1706/28. Both Patrols cancelled today owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0740/30. Patrol UNET. has returned to Base owing to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1114/30.) My 0730. All Patrols cancelled owing to low visibility. (C. in C. Rosyth 1210/30.)

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's and Shipping at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/30 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

FLUSHING/

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity Contd.

Flushing. 53 and 59 Squadrons to attack tonight the two Train-Ferries reported in Verbendings Canal, Flushing. (H.Q.C.C. 1302/30 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Oban A/A Defence of Convoy Anchorage. Admiralty 1317/29. No action can be taken on two (B)until local reconnaissance now being carried out is complete. Point at para. two (A) of Admiralty signal being included in general review of air defence of West Coast of Scotland. (Air Ministry 1920/30 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

North Foreland. Air-attack Automatic Signal heard at 0655, strength 2, bearing 135°. (North Foreland 0704/30.)

Deptford. About 2010/29 one H.E. Bomb fell in Mast Pond and another next to War Department, and several Incendiary Bombs. Considerable damage, to buildings, no apparent damage to stores. (Supt. R.W.Y. Deptford.)(1445/30 to Adty.)

Mining.

VENOMOUS. Damaged by Mine at 1120/30 abreast B.2. Buoy entering Queens Channel. No casualties and not leaking. Now in tow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1314/30.) Berthed in Gladstone Dock. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2055/30.)

DORCASIA. (British Tanker, 8053 Tons.) Damaged by Mine at 1030/30 about 4 miles 250° from Bar Light Vessel and 1.8 miles South of Swept Channel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1314/30.)

CALCIUM. (Steam Coaster) Mined at 0545/30 in 53° 25' N. 3° 45' W. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1314/30.)

MOST SECRET.

30. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. Contd.

Operation G.G.E. Completed. (ADVENTURE. 1436/30.)

Operations
S.N.6.
SN.66. Your 1046/28.
1. Position for S.N.6 is concurred in.
2. Initial position for S.N.66 should be 61° degrees 12' N. 06° 40' W. to afford maximum facilities to Faeroese line fishing interests.

Aberdeen Area. 3. Proposed date is concurred in subject to the availability of escort and covering force, on which point C. in C.H.F. is requested to remark.(V.C.N.S. 1617/30 to R.A.M.L.)

Search of War Channel. Weather permitting intend sailing 19th M/S Group to R/V 090° Cruden Scaurs 5' 6' at 1000/31, thence search war channel east side ahead of E.N.49.to 000° Kinnaird Head 14' arriving 1700/31, returning searching West side of war channel ahead of W N 61 to Cruden Scaurs. E.T.A. 0001/1.(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1701/30. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast. At 0111/30 position of Enemy Surface Unit, probably Destroyer or larger, was between Haugesund and Egersund. D/F unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0201/0.)

Unidentified Ship. One small slow Vessel bearing South 11 miles from Sumburgh and steering about 150° at 0100/30. (A.C.C.S.1309/30.)

Kiel Canal. Further statement in Press that maximum draft now allowed in Kiel Canal is 5 metres until obstruction can be cleared. (N.A. Stockholm 1915/30.)

MOST SECRET.

30. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BODMANT.
(British, 5342 Tons.
CITY OF BEDFORD.
(British, 6402 Tons.

BODMANT in collision. (Portishead Radio 0829/30.) CITY OF BEDFORD in collision (Plymouth W/T. 0841/30.) Detach 2 ships to assist. Collision in probably 59° 04' N. 21° W. (C.in C.W.A.1006/30 to WHITEHALL) If not required by TREVARRACK and SALVONIA, proceed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to THAMES) CITY OF BEDFORD reports latitude as 59° 40' N. (C. in C. W.A. 1040/30 to WHITEHALL) Sailing DILIGENT from Campbeltown at 1130 to assist (N.O.I.C.Greenock 1800/30 to C. in C. W.A. Sailed TENACITY at 1130 from Campbeltown to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1800/30 to C. in C. W.A.) C. in C. W.A.1006/30. WINCHELSEA proceed with despatch to BODMANT and GENTIAN to CITY OF BEDFORD. (WHITEHALL 1804/30.) BODMANT proceeding Reykjavik if possible (BODMANT 1818/30.) Making water fast in No.1 hold. Position 59° 40'N. 21° 38' W. S.O.S. (BODMANT. Recd. 1457/30.)

BODMANT abandoned. Sinking fast. All crew safe on board OPORTO. (Port Patrick Radio 0432/31.) OPORTO arrived Reykjavik 1800 G.M.T. (F.O. Iceland 1402/1 to Adty.)

BARON ARDROSSAN.

(British, 3896 Tons) Your 0737/30 and 0824/30. Tug SUPERMAN sailed to assist. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0836/30to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Tug SCHELDE sailed Oban 0850 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1003/30 to C. in C. W.A.) SCHELDE reports at 1715 ship well aground on rocks at Saundray and abandoned. SCHELDE returning Oban. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1820/30.)

H. 31.

(Submarine) Request docking in Clyde Area for 3 or 4 days after 10/1 to repair recent flooding damage to engine-room. (C.7.1229/30 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

WESTON.

D/G defective. Have anchored to repair. (WESTON 1536/30 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

AGATE.
(~~British~~, 824 Tons.)

SCHELDE's and SUPERMAN'S 1820/30. Proceed to assistance of S.S. AGATE aground in vicinity of Caul Point 7 miles North of Oversay Light. If no assistance can be given return Campbeltown and report situation.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2300/30 to SCHELDE.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.G. 48	Sailed at 2315/29. Escort FOLKESTONE from Liverpool (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0012/30)
H.X. 101	Your 1834/28. Date and route. (C. O.A.C. Halifax 1122/30 to Admty.)
S.C. 16	Estimated position at 1200/30. (C. in C., W.A. to LADY MADELINE 1126/30)
W.N. 61	My 1500/29 Read 23 ships sailed not 20. (N.C.S.O. 1145/30) List (1200/30)
B.H.X. 100	Departure, ocean escort MONTCLARE, returning Bermuda (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1133/30)
B.H.X. 101	Draft (List) (Navy Control Bermuda 1201/30)
O.G.O. 48	Sailed 0500/30. Escort BLUEBELL 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1203/30)
W.N. 62. O.	1300/30, one H.M.T., 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1245/30) No escort 5 ships Sound of Mull (N.C.S.O. Oban 1541/30)
O.B.O. 267	0345/31 Escort HEARTSEASE. 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1255/30)
E.N. 47	Arrived, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1400/30)
W.N. 62	1200/30. H.M.T. KING SOL 3 ships including H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1435/30)
O.B. 267	Sailed 1400/30. 7 ships (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1506/30)
F.S. 75	Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1514/30)
W.N. 63	Code "Material" 1900/1. H.M.T. HUGH WALPOLE PENTLAND FIRTH, 10 ships N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1541/30)
F.S. 72	My 1514/30. LONDON QUEEN and WESTBURN and CHATWOOD now reported arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1611/30)
O.B. 270	1330/5/1. Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1641/30)
O.B. 269	1130/3/1. Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1642/30)

/F.S. 73.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping
F.S. 73	All ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1644/30)
S.L.S. 58	Arrived 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1800/30)
S.L. 59	Meet (List) (C. in C., W.A., 1908/30 to MALLOW, NORTHERN PRIDE, ARABIS, NORTHERN DAWN, CLARKIA, ST. ELSTAN, SKATE, MAN O'WAR, SCIMITAR)
E.N. 49	1830/30. H.M.T.'s CAPE MARIATO, BERKSHIRE, additional escort FLEETWOOD) 24 ships, (N.C.S.O. Methil 1925/30)
H.X. 98	Sailing 1200 G.M.T/2. Route (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1500/30)
F.N. 70	Humber 30/12 departure O.B.V. CORINTHIAN to join F.N. 70 for Methil and onward routeing to Clyde at 0330. (F.O.Humber, 0915/30)
3 M.V's.	My 1004/29 to N.O.I.C. Barry only. SS ANTONIA and SS AGATHA and one Greek M/V if she arrives in time, are to be sailed to R/V with RUBY (S.O.) and JASPER in position 300 degs. Trevose Head 5 miles at 1400/31. RUBY and JASPER are then to escort the former two to Brixham and the latter to be detached for Dartmouth. Fighter cover has been requested. Code word "Major" (C. in C., W.A., 1104/30)
O.B. 267	Escort for O.B. 267. HOLLYHOCK from Liverpool AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, MARGUERITE, LADY LILIAN from Clyde and H.M.S. HEARTSEASE from Oban. AMBUSCADE senior officer. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1138/30)
W.N. 62.	Sailed MANCHESTER CITY in convoy W.N. 62 in accordance with my 1230/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1210/30)
E.N. 49	Weather permitting intend sailing 12th M/S group R/V Scurdy Ness at 2300/30 search east side War Channel ahead of E.N. 49 to Cruden Scaurs then return to Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1231/30 to C. in C., Rosyth)
S.L. 59	Meet S.L. 59 24 ships unescorted 1000/1/1/41 (Route) (C. in C., W.A., 1252/30 to MALLOW, ARABIS, CLARKIA, SKATE, SCIMITAR, CATHAY for Commodore.) C. in C., S.A. 1231/14. Leave S.L. 59 in time to pass through 56° 00' N., 18° 00' W at 1900 B.S.T./31 then (route) (C. in C., W.A., 1326/30 to CATHAY)

/?.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.

Shipping

2.....	Your 1104/30. Convoy telegram Commodore in ANTONIA (route) (N.C.S.O. Barry 1603/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
W.N. 61	Your 1300 (N/T in War Reg.) not to A.C.O.S. If necessary proceed to Scapa to await W.N. 61. (C. in C., Rosyth 1631/30 to JASON)
H.G. 49	Gibraltar departure 30/12. 1800 KINGSTON TOPAZ to join H.G. 49 daylight 2/1. (S.O.I. Gib., 1802/30)
S.C. 16	Position 1800 (129°) 16' N., 013° 30' W., S.C. 16 not met. Request instructions. (LADY MADELEINE, 1835/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
Route from R.V.	My 1848/30. In order to provide against the possibility of the Commodore of an inward bound convoy failing to receive the signal giving him the onward route from the R/V it is requested that this route as far as the splitting point may always be given to the Commodore before sailing and communicated to me. (C. in C., W.A., 1850/30 to Admty.)
W.N. 63	Sailed A/S Trawlers HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH for W.N. 63 E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900/31 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 2028/30)
Oban Anchorage	Your 1911/24. My 1530/25 and your further 1341/28. It is intended that main convoy anchorage shall be the Lynn of Lorne between Eil Dubh and Black Island which will hold approximately thirty-five ships and that anchorage (B) in my 1530/25 will be used for surplus ships which at present average twenty. (N.O.I.C. Oban 2300/30 to Admty.)
F.S. 76	Convoy message. My 1017/27. Amend escort of F.S. 76 to read PELICAN, VANITY, WESTMINSTER. (C. in C., Rosyth 2316/30)
O.B. 267	Sailed AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, MARGUERITE and LADY LILIAN to R/V with Liverpool portion of O.B. 267. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2330/30)

/Convoy conferences.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Convoy Conferences

Your 1853/28. Necessity for stimulating interest of masters is fully appreciated, but N.C.S.O's are much handicapped by lack of information about attacks on convoys and current tactics of U-Boats and enemy aircraft. My 1301/8 to Admty. only refers. Suggest up-to-date information on these points be promulgated frequently in NATELS telegrams. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1022/30 to Admty.)

Stragglers from Convoys

Greater proportion of stragglers being sunk than of independently routed ships, who can be diverted at sea from known dangers because their routes are known. Essential to remove all possible causes of straggling. Independent ships attacked when a long way from route ordered. Points to impress on masters. (D.T.D. 1800/30 to N.C.S.O's)

Troop Convoys

PENNLAND

Your 1119/29. Owing to late arrival PENNLAND cannot dock today. Doubtful whether therefore any boiler cleaning can be done in time available. Further signal will be made after docking of vessel tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1216/30 to D. of S.T.)

W.S. 5 A.

Request you will report the order of Convoy W.S. 5 A. after the fast and slow portions joined up. (D.O.D. (F) 1258/30 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider

SHEFFIELD
ESSEX

Gibraltar arrival 30/12 0715, SHEFFIELD escorting SS ESSEX. (S.O.I. Gib. 0120/30)

Force H.

Gibraltar arrival 0900/30 S.O.Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FAULKNOR, DUNCAN, -FIREDRAKE, JAGUAR, HERO, HASTY. (S.O.I., Gib., 0916/30)

EMPIRE TROOPER

My 1313/29 paragraph D. EMPIRE TROOPER will sail 1930/30 (D.O.D.(F) 1000/30 to C.S. 10)

DUCHESS OF YORK

Cancel my 1707/29 to DUCHESS OF YORK only. Continue your voyage to U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 1028/30, to G.B.M.S. 1 for DUCHESS OF YORK)

EMPIRE TROOPER
Damage

Your 1158/29.
(a) Chief damage to EMPIRE TROOPER was caused by 5.9" shell hole just above water line on starboard bows, fortunately forward of collision bulkhead. Number one hold and G deck above were flooded with 700 tons (4 groups omitted) zone of bulkhead.
(b) Similar shell hit upper part of hull amidship killing two of crew. Does not affect sea worthiness.
(c) Damage to boats splinters.
As regars (a) Water is being pumped out and a plate welded over hole (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1137/30 to Admty.)

MENELAUS
COSTA RICA
ARABISTAN

Your 2157/29. MENELAUS+ and COSTA RICA last seen by Commodore at 2132/26 in position 039° 15' N., 021° 47' W., steering 175°. He considers they have gone on. ARABISTAN also hit above water line by raider may be 6000 tons ship claimed. zone + one.
(S.O. Force K., 1142/30 to Admty.)

DORSETSHIRE

Your 1142/30. Have got MENELAUS and COSTA RICA. My position course and speed are 023° 43' N., 020° 14' W., (? 249°) 23° 43' N., 020° 14' W., 356° 10 knots.
(DORSETSHIRE, 1800N/30 to S.O. Force K.)

CALIFORNIA

Admiralty 1715/29 and 2157/29. Resume your patrol. MENELAUS and COSTA RICA have been located. (D.O.D. (F) 2031/30 to CALIFORNIA)

ARK ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider

ARK ROYAL — ARK ROYAL is at eight hours' notice for steam for four days from 1400 today Monday to make good defects. (S.O.Force H., 1437/30 to Admty.)

CYCLAMEN — For Admty. CYCLAMEN left Ponta Delgada 1800 G.M.T. 30/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1635/30)

Destroyers Corvettes Distribution — F.O.C.N.A's 1048/30 and C. in C., South Atlantic's 1145N/29.
(a) F.O.C.N.A. is requested to send two Vees to Freetown to arrive as soon as possible and recall FURY and FORESTER to Gibraltar.
(b) It is hoped C. in C., S.A. can adjust movements of CALENDULA and ASPHODEL to enable them to join ISIS and ENCOUNTER as screen for W.S. 5 A.
(c) ISIS and ENCOUNTER should be used for Operation MONSOON, sailing of Force 'K' and W.S. 5 A from Freetown being delayed if necessary to await arrival of Vees.
(d) Two of the Corvettes now with C.S. 10 to be retained temporarily at Gibraltar and Vees to remain at Freetown until further orders. (D.O.D. (F) 1716/30 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C., S.A.)

My 1830/29. EMPIRE TROOPER sailed 2300 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2115/30, to Admty.)

VELOX VIDETTE — Your 1716/30. Intend to sail VELOX and VIDETTE a.m./31. Endurance will only allow for speed of 12 knots. Expected time of arrival 7/1/41. (F.O.C.N.A. 2210/30 to Admty

DERBYSHIRE — Expect to arrive Gibraltar 0800Z/2/1.
(DERBYSHIRE, 2333/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

INDOCHINOIS — Your 1231/29. I have received no orders for repatriation of crew of INDOCHINOIS, last instructions were that they were to be interned vide Admiralty's 1004/29/10 and they are still interned at Freetown. (C.in C. S.A., 1017N/30 to Admty.)

French Floating Dock. — Your 1901/29. No objection to dock proceeding to a French Colonial Port but if it appears to be going to occupied France it should be intercepted. (V.C.N.S. 1254/30 to F.O.C.N.A.).

SFAX and tanker torpedoed. — French submarine SFAX whilst steaming on surface convoying French tanker was torpedoed about (corrupt group) 15 miles off Cape Juby. Only four of crew saved. Tanker also torpedoed and sunk, number lost not known. Request I may be permitted to inform French that this was not the work of British submarines. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1631/30 to Admty.)

Operation "Ration". — Operation "RATION" is to be put into force tomorrow 31/12 and subsequent days. There is no limit on the number of interceptions to be made but the result of each one is to be reported as quickly as possible. The fact that RENOWN will be in dock is accepted. The object of "RATION" is to prevent the French making a hole in our blockade. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1900/30 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Your 1900/30. Five destroyers will carry out this operation supported by one cruiser at short notice in harbour. This leaves no destroyer for Straits Patrol or screen for heavy ships of Force H.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2324/30 to Admty.)

Vichy Ships Allowed S. of Dakar. — Your 1350/29 (Vichy warships south of Dakar to be reported). This is an important change in policy and its practical application should be clear. In future all Vichy French Warships and Merchant ships escorted by them will be allowed to pass to Ivory Coast and Dahomey. The Vichy French policy recently has been to escort Merchant ships to these ports by small warships, destroyers, sloops and possibly trawlers. None have been intercepted up to the present, but if they had been they would have been turned back. French warships until they reach neighbourhood of Cape Palmas may be going to Ivory Coast, Dahomey or to Free French West Africa. Passage to Ivory Coast and Dahomey also allows passage to Gold coast and eventually Nigeria. While there are no indications at present in this area that Vichy French are likely to make any move by sea against

/ Free French .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

Vichy Ships Allowed S. of Dakar.

Free French West Africa, or against any of our Ports, I should like to know if there is now any Political development or background which makes such moves more unlikely and to ask that I may be informed early of any happening that may cause a change in the situation.
It has to be borne in mind that Libreville, Port Gentil, Takoradi and other Gold Coast and Nigerian Ports except Lagos have no coast defences and there are now now Naval Forces in the Free French West African Area.
(C.in C. S.A., 1907/30, to Admty.)

My 125/62 of 15/11 not held by Admiralty. Cancel para. one and substitute; (Begins) Vichy French Warships met at sea south of Dakar are to be reported. If they appear to be proceeding to any port in Free French West Africa they are to be told this cannot be permitted and if necessary force will be used to prevent it; Sen. Officer to be informed at same time that it is hoped this will be avoided. If sufficient force is not available they are to be shadowed and reported only. Ships are to be instructed to proceed to any Vichy French Port north of Ivory Coast, fuelling if necessary at a British Port. If ships agree to proceed as directed they are to be shadowed until further instructions are received. Endeavour is to be made to obtain a definite guarantee from S.O. that he will proceed as directed and if obtained this is to be reported.
If destination of Vichy forces met is not clear, ships are to remain in company until further instructions are received. (Ends).
The effect of this is that Vichy French Warships and Vichy French Warships with escorted Merchant Ships may be allowed to proceed Dahomey and Ivory Coast and any other Vichy territory.
(C.in C. S.A., 2001N/30, to S.A.Station).

North Atlantic.

Force "H", duties

A. My 1724/28 June is cancelled.
B. F.O.C.N.A. is responsible for preventing passage of the Straits of Gibraltar by all enemy vessels and by vessels of other nations as may be ordered by the Admiralty from time to time.
C. Whilst Force H is based at Gibraltar F.O.C.N.A. is to call upon S.O. Force H for such assistance as may be necessary.

/ Except ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force "H" duties. (contd.)

Except when directed to carry out specific tasks by the Admiralty the S.O. Force H is to comply with such requests so far as he is able but if, owing to conflicting claims, he is unable to do so, the Admiralty should be informed.
D. Force H is available for operations in the Mediterranean as agreed to by Admiralty and as mutually arranged by C.in C. Mediterranean and S.O. Force H. It will be lent temporarily to the Mediterranean Station when thus employed.
E. S.O. Force H. remains responsible for the administration of Foce H and for its tactical employment during operations whether acting under the strategical control of Admiralty or C.in C. Mediterranean, or in compliance with the requests of F.O.C.N.A.
(1 S.L. 1152/30 to Flag Officers, Home and Abroad).

OLYMPUS, Azores.

V.A.(S) 1121/13. Intend to sail OLYMPUS for Azores Patrol p.m./2 to arrive patrol a.m./7.
(Capt. S.S. 0952/30 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

Trawlers.

There may be doubt about Kingston trawlers' endurance being sufficient for whole trip at convoy speed. If this is the case they are to be detached as requisite.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246/30 to LEITH).

Raider Report. NALGORA

Following has been read:
37.22 N. 21.50 W. NALGORA (Valentia Radio, 1434/30).

Following has been read.
QQQQ. 37. 22 N., 21.50, followed.
(Valentia Radio, T.O.R. 1449/30).

Following has been read.
37.22 N. 21.50 W., NALGARA still being followed. (Valentia, 1512/30. G.M.T.)

Raider reported at 1434 by NALGORA was H.M.S.DERBYSHIRE.
(DERBYSHIRE, 1511/30, to Admty.)

Following has been read.
R R R R cancel 1430/30 D E M U D J
(Scapa W/T, T.O.R. 1725/30).

Raider reports 1434, 1512 and 1449/30 are now cancelled and referred to DERBYSHIRE. (D.C. 1929/30).

/ Air Report ....

MOST SECRET.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Air Report.

Daily summary operations. 2 routine A.S. patrols. 1 surface recco east 2 special reccos. to the west in search of French Floating Dock last seen 180 Tarifa 6 at 1730 29/12, steering 270 degrees at 3 to 4 K S. Area covered 8-30 degrees west to 4 degrees west. (200 Group, 1705/30, to Air Min.)

KINGSTON TOPAZE.

KINGSTON TOPAZE sailed 1800/30 (route) until she joins H G 49 which it is estimated she will do during daylight 2/1.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1820/30 amended 1112/31).

South Atlantic.

Admiralty Signals.

Admiralty General Message 642A of 26/12/40. Transmissions of Admiralty General Messages Basegrams at 1100 and 1900 are to be read by ships in Area 9 and when East of Line joining Takoradi and Lobito on South Atlantic Station. W/T silence is not to be broken to ask for repetitions of messages missed at these transmissions.
(D.S.D. 1724/30. Admty. General Message).

Duala.

N.C.S. Officer Duala's 0943/28 has been passed to Admiralty for information. Further enquiries are being made.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1003/30 to Admty.)

Walvis Bay.

Your 2318/15 (Proposal to use Walvis Bay as a bunkering Station). Para.4. Suggest that use of Walvis Bay shall begin as soon as required. Very desirable that ships bunkering at Walvis Bay shall also complete with ice fresh meat butter and vegetables in order to reduce demands on limited supplies at Freetown. N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1702/24 is passed to you. Request A/S components be sent as early as possible, but consider use of Walvis Bay need not wait for M.T.B's and A/S vessels.
(C.in C. S.A., 1821/30 to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.5A.

My 1744/27. Estimated bunker requirements are as follows:- (list)
(D.S.T., 1954/30 to C.in C's, S.A., E.I., Med., etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

"Q" Report, ALGIC.

Received 1952 G.M.T. 8333 kcs de KDDC (s.s. ALGIC) Lat. 25.03 South Long 1.10 East sighted suspicious vessel, large white painted, built similar to tanker, surrounded by four small craft, apparently submarines, heading Southeast direction. Owing to distance from us we are unable to give better description. Master s.s. ALGIC (Ends) KDDC was calling ZSV without success after which message passed to GKT with request to relay.
(Portishead Radio, T.H.I. 2056/30, to Admty.)

From War Registry.
Message received from Portishead radio 2056/30/12 sighting of suspicious vessel by S.S. ALGIC has been passed to C.in C. South Atlantic repeated Force L for information under T.O.O. 2250/30/12.

2040 G.M.T. 12360 kcs. DE KDDC to WSL. Here copy of message I gave to GKT. KDDC then repeats message referring to suspicious vessel reported in my message timed 8.56 P.M.
(Portishead Radio, T.H.I. 2147/30).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Tobruk.

Our A.894 29/12 (Refers to 1414/29) Correct paragraph one as follows after 1940 "One Egypt. Night of 26/27 Sec. One Wellington bombed Tobruk". (H.Q. RAF. M.E. 0135/30).

Air Report. Naples attack.

I. 190 30/12. Special Operational Summary night 29-30/12. 7 Wellingtons 48 Squadron despatched in 2 Echelons to attack battleships at Naples. 1900, 5 Wellingtons dropped 9000 lbs S.A.P. from varying heights 5 to 10000 feet. All sticks aimed across customs and other jetties. Red glow was seen on west end of customs jetty. 2315. Second attack by 2 Wellingtons dropping 4500 lbs. S.A.P. from 11000 feet. All bursts near customs jetty. Detailed results not observed due to intense A.A. fire from shore and shipping but mostly inaccurate. 1 A/C received 2 hits from shrapnel sustaining slight damage. Battleships and destroyers appeared to have steam up. Photographic reconnaissance is now being carried out.
(H.Q. Med., 0730/30 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Suda Bay.

Sunday 29/12. GLOUCESTER and YORK arrived 1445 and sailed 2240 and 2035 respectively. CALCUTTA arrived 1730. PEONY SALVIA and HYACINTH arrived 1815.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 0809/30).

Sollum Cable.

Three Commanders-in-Chief have agreed Alexandria - Sollum Cable is urgent requirement. Confirm earliest date possible for diversion. Ref. our X./30817 of 18/12 will Cables and Wireless Ltd. find personnel equipment etc. or will Marconi, Egypt offer stand temporarily?
(C. in C. M.E. 0950/30 to W.O).

Submarines return to U.K.

A.T. 2237/13/12. Following is proposed programme of return of O.P. and R. Class Submarines to U.K. allowance being made for 2 Submarines refitting concurrently 1st PROTEUS,

/OSIRIS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Submarines return to U.K.

OSIRIS. 2nd PARTHIAN, PANDORA. 3rd REGENT, ROVER. 4th OTUS, OLYMPUS. 5th PERSEUS. ROQUAL has not been included but if required for these modifications would refit with REGENT ROVER with OTUS, and OLYMPUS with PERSEUS. Proposed that OSIRIS should relive PANDORA in 8th Flotilla and that PROTEUS should return to 1st Flotilla.
(Capt. S.I. 1247/30 to C. in C. Med).

Air Report Libya.

Operational Summary No. 203 up to 1200 30/12.
1. EGYPT day 29/12. Tmimi and Derna landing grounds bombed by six Blenheims each and Gazala Satellite by three. 2 small fires started at Tmimi target straddled at Gazala. Results unobserved at Derna owing to cloud. Standing patrol of 6 Fighters maintained throughout the day over Sollum by Hurricanes and Gladiators. Reccos. reported no movements between Bardia and Tobruk. No change in military situation Bardia.

Valona.

2. GREECE day 29/12. 6 Blenheims in 2 flights of 3 aircraft dropped 6000 lbs. of bombs on Valona straddling troops and M.T. vehicles on road leading from jetty and starting one fire. Other bombs hit buildings and started one large fire in a warehouse. Two cargo boats in harbour also machine gunned. One Blenheim hit by intense pom pom fire subsequently crashed in sea. Tow of crew escaping by parachute. One submarine was observed in harbour. One Sunderland searched South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

/Movements....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Movements.

Summary no. 179. Eastern Mediterranean Submarine patrol. TRUANT off Tripoli (Libya); OTUS, PARTHIAN, TETRARCH from Malta arriving (? Cape Carthage) Palermo, Calabria and Gulf of Taranto late 31st. PANDORA leaves Alexandria 1700/30 proceed Western Mediterranean to the Narrows night of 7th/8th. 3rd C.S. leaves Piraeus P.M./30 to arrive Alexandia 1700/30 proceed Western Mediterranean to The Narrows night of 7th/8th. 3rd C.S. leaves Piraeus P.M./30 to arrive Alexandria A.M./1. AJAX, PERTH leave Alexandria A.M./31 to arrive Suda Bay A.M./1 Piraeus P.M./1. GALLANT leaves Alexandria P.M./30 arriving Port Said A.M./31 sailing with ULSTER PRINCE P.M./31 to pass through Kaso Straits night 1st/2nd arriving Suda Bay A.M./2. DAINTY and convoy leave Port Sail P.M./30 to arrive Alexandria A.M./31. CALCUTTA, three Corvettes left Suda Bay A.M./30 to arrive Alexandria, CALCUTTA A.M./31 Corvettes P.M./31 TERROR from Sollum expected Alexandria A.M./31.
(C. in C. Med, 1307/30).

TRIUMPH "U" class.

Your 1033/27 (re H.M.S. TRIUMPH and 3 U class submarines joining 1 S.F.)
Yes.
(D.O.D.(F) 1715/30 to C. in C. Med)

S/M Patrols. PARTHIAN. TETRARCH.

My 1649/25. Object of Patrol as in operation B S. paragraph seven. Enemy shipping is believed to follow coastal route which is generally parallel to and within five miles of coast. Route is approached at various points through definite sectors, known sectors being as follows (i) Between bearing 146° and 156° from 151° Santa Maria Di Leuca six. (ii) Between bearing 077° and 087° from 082° Crotone light seven.
(iii) Between bearing 170° and 190° from 180 Capo Dell Arwi light 4.
TETRACH is to divide her time between northern and southern end of her area. Submarine will probably leave Patrol TETRACH 10th PARTHIAN 11th January.
(Capt S.I. 1355/30 to PARTHIAN, TETRARCH)

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Malta Air Raid.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 30/12. All times G.M.T.
Part 1. 1044 to 1120 formation of 3 79's and 4 fighters approached from north at 17,000 feet and bombed Luqa three bombs falling on aerodrome. This raid was followed by two other formations indicated to be large, One of these turned back 8 miles N.E. of Grand Harbour. The other came to 38 miles nath and turned back. First formation heavily engaged by A.A. no hits claimed. Second formation engaged at extreme range. Six Hurricanes up but did not engage first formation. They were instructed to position themselves for the second and larger formation. All raiders went out north. Two Wellingtons U/S at the time on ground at Luqa damaged by splinters. A third Wellington slightly damaged now serviceable. No damage to civilian property. Two children slightly injured by falling shrapnel.

Naples, Recco.

Part II. 0615 to 1155 Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Naples for shipping and results of Wellington operations against ships in Naples harbour night 29/30 Dec. reported in my 1.190 30/12. In harbour one Littorio battleship and one Cavour battleship, 3 8-inch cruisers, 1 6-inch cruiser, 5 destroyers, 1 large M/V 14,000 tons with noticeable list. 3 M/V's 7,000 tons and large number smaller M/V's up to 2,000 tons. 1 6-inch cruiser and 1 destroyer entering harbour. Reconnaissance carried out from 13,000 feet. Effects of last night's attack could not be assessed by visual reconnaissance and photos were unsuccessful. 2 flights of Macchi 200's seen patrolling west of Vesuvius. Glenn Martin was higher and out-distanced them. No A.A. on return flight. One unidentified submarine on surface 8 miles N.E. of Cape Farina course N.E. over speed 7 knots.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1730/30).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Trincomalee Resources.

Your 1927/18 para. (ii) and my 0958/24. Consider it is highly advisable to supplement water resources at Trincomalee. (ii) Available at Calcutta large Molasses barges convertible to water fighter capacity about 900 tons pumps capacity about 100 tons per hour agent for owners willing to sell. Cost to build in 1936 rupees 153,000. Intend to charter for one year or failing that to purchase on best terms. Request covering approval. (C.in C. E.I., 0649Z/30).

RANCHI.

To leave Durban p.m./31 and proceed through position 03°0 S. 033° E. towards position 022° S. 040° E. at 12 knots. (C.in C. E.I., 0702Z/30, to RANCHI).

Raider.

Correct 1312/29 (description of raider in Gulf of Aden) mast on poop calswing bridge. (C.in C. E.I., 1102Z/30).

Abadan, COCKCHAFER

You will have seen from information from sure sources that Italians may be contemplating raid on Abadan and Shat El Arab area. Understand C.in C. East Indies had already arranged with S.N.O.P.G. for COCKCHAFER to be moored in vicinity of Abadan. A.O.C. 'Iraq should warn A.I.O.C. authorities and ensure that air raid precautions are enforced, especially blackout. Two Gladiators from Habbaniya might be sent to Shaibah but do not consider these could be effective without R.D.F. (Air Ministry, 1630/30, to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.).

Air Report.

Summary No. 201 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 30/12. 0515 to 0755 one Blenheim 8 Squadron made armed photographic reconnaissance Somaliland photographic scrutiny awaited. Following noted visually. In Berbera harbour 12 small craft. Several small craft in Zeilat harbour. At Jibouti 30 to 40 small craft in harbour and one M/V at end of pier. Attacked buildings alongside Zeilah landing ground at 0735. Damage observed from low level stick of 250 pounders and incendiaries. Three Blenheim 203 Squadron provided fighter escort for convoy B.N.12 one using advanced base Kamaran and remaining overnight. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1733/30).

/ Indian Minesweepers ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Indian Minesweepers. Your 0601/29. In view of intention to build the Additional BANGOR/BATHURSTS which it is recommended should be equipped with 'LL' sweep Mark V Star in addition to ORONSA no necessity is seen for increase of number of Motor Minesweepers from 8 to 10.
(D.M.S. 1850/30 to F.O.C. E.I.S.)

Japanese Contraband Traffic, Kismayu. Following received from Forces Nairobi. (Begins) Statement from prisoner captured El Wak operation confirms Japanese ships have been using Kismayu and possibly occasionally Mogadiscio. Also statement that Japanese ships unload into dhows off Italian Somaliland coast under cover of darkness. Indications are that possibly 3 Japanese ships have entered Kismayu since outbreak of Italian war. General cargoes are petrol lubricating oil, tyres, and M.T. spares. Consider this breaking of blockade is most serious and unlikely to be stopped by periodical bombardment of Kismayu. Insufficient aircraft available to maintain frequent off-shore patrols. Request you pass information to C.in C. East Indies with urgent representations to stop this traffic. One prisoner states 45 British naval officers and 250 men in Mogadiscio. These assumed to be mercantile officers and men. T.O.O. 0915/28. (Ends).
(Mid-east M.L., East Indies 1935Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

TALLEYRAND . Your 1630 26 (re date TALLEYRAND captured) Reporting Officer Kobe reports unable to obtain reliable information re. date from officers ex OLE JACOB and TEDDY.
(S.O.I. Shanghai, 0757Z/30 to Admty.)

AUTOMEDON, capture of currency. Following capture of AUTOMEDON 11/11 some 60 packages described as small mail bags were seen by Norwegian prisoner being transferred to raider. From statements later by officer of raider that six million dollars in notes had been taken it appears possible that entire contents of strong room were transferred to raider. Local agents have not details of contents but confirm large quantity of un-issued Malayan currency was amongst cargo. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1005Z/30, to Admty.)

Indo-China. Schompre to De Gaulle. Anti-British feeling. Decoux giving in to Japanese. Thailand-Indo China incidents. (C.in C. China, 0613Z/30). Original in Lion copy only.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Enemy Unit.

A.1 information received of D/F bearing of German warship 104 degrees from coast-guard station at Southampton Long Island (Four miles east of Shittbruneck Light) at 1200/29 zone plus five. Frequency unknown. (N.A. Washington, 1731/30 to Admty.)

DIOMEDE.

My 1001/26 (Patrol orders for DIOMEDE). Fuel on 1/1/41 and resume patrol. Leave patrol so as to arrive Bermuda 7/1. Oiler BISHOPDALE is to be sailed for Bermuda on completion of fuelling on 1/1. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1012/30 to DIOMEDE).

HAMILTON stranding.

My 1239/21/12 (re payment for repairs to HAMILTON). Would appreciate confirmation if my assumption is correct. (C.N.S. Canada, 1232/30 to Admty.)

H.X.100.

H.X.100 ocean escort COMORIN subsequently returning to Halifax. (F.O. 3 E.S. 1607/30, to Admty.)

410. Your 1731/30. Can you state reason for suspecting signal was from German warship? Please report all available particulars of signal i.e. call signs, preamble and whether letter or figure code. (C.in C. A.W.I., 2311/30, to N.A. Washington).

Shipping Routes and Raiders.

To avoid raiders area to north eastward of Leeward Isles suggest shipping bound between north America and South Africa should be routed through any passage in Eastern Caribbean Sea between Sombrero and Trinidad and within 300 miles of Cape Change Brazil. Slight focal area thus formed south east of Caribbean Sea could be afforded some protection by cruiser patrol working from Trinidad. (C.in C. A.W.I. 0912/30 to Admty.)

Australia.

KANYO MARU

127. My 2000Z/29 Part 1. Description KANYO MARU, Additions. (A.C.N.B., 0501Z/30, to Admty. etc.)

/ KANGITANE ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

RANGITANE
HOLLYWOOD
KOMATA
VINNI

126. My 20002/29, distress messages of raider victims.
RANGITANE Van Diemen main transmitter failed transfer made to emergency transmitter. Latter jammed Van Diemen main transmitter replaced and message transmitted.
HOLLYWOOD vessel was 480 miles east of New Zealand at time of attack. Master states W/T apparatus was inefficient and claims (inexcusably) that reception by any shore station was unlikely.
KOMATA jammed from moment of attempting transmission. Wireless apparatus put out of action very early. W/T operator made every possible endeavour to transmit and was last to leave his ship.
VINNI W/T duty undertaken by Chief Officer who was occupied on bridge. Early suspicious regarding intentions of raider allayed through Nauru Shore Signal Station which had raider in view making no signal indicating hostile nature of vessel. No information yet available regarding other vessels.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 07432/30, to N.Z.N.B.).

Convoy, ACHILLES

ACHILLES escorting EMPIRE STAR, PORT CHALMERS EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and WAUNGANUI left Sydney 21452/29 for Auckland. (A.C.N.B., 0900Z/30, to Admty. etc.)

Troop Transport. U.S.S.

Your 94892 30/12. Elbow, 6000. Personnel in U.S.S. for Middle East 12,000. (Army, Melbourne, 0910/31, to Troopers, London).

Raider Survivors.

My 12437/26. Emirau Island survivors due Townsville 2000Z/31. Intend to release to publicity press and to local broadcast (?up to) arival. Therefore intend "EMIRAU Release" 1000Z/31st December. Released in terms of paragraph D my 1243Z/25 with following alteration: "Enemy Raiding Forces" become "Enemy Commerce raiders" as requested Admiralty 1658/26.
"A number of ships" become "names of ships sunk" as advised in my 0635/27.
Intend also using (?name of) EMIRAU ISLAND. As many of next of kin as possible will be advised before publication. But as complete nominal lists are in ship bringing survivors, cannot advise everyone.
(A.C.N.B., 1215Z/30, to Admty. etc.)

/ U.S.S. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

U.S.S.

H.M. transport MAURETANIA left port Phillip Bay 2240/29 for rendezvous in western Bass Straits with U.S.S.
(A.C.N.B., 12302/30 to Admty. etc.)

U.S.S.

C.B. 04024 paragraph 82.
(1) U.S.S. (2) 0800Z Monday 30/12 from rendezvous 058° 45' S. 142° 20' E. Daylight Friday 3/1 1941 in position 051° 56' 48" South 115° 10' East (4) 20 knots (5)(Route). (6) H.M.A.S. CANBERRA (9) QUEEN MARY, AWATEA, AQUITANIA, DOMINION MONARCH, MAURETANIA.
(13) (a) Admiral Goldsmith AQUITANIA Colombo (b) Cdre. Irvin QUEEN MARY Trincomalee.
(A.C.N.B. 1235/30 to Admty.)

Marshall Islands, use as raider base.

Your 228 Dec.30 repeated Foreign Office not Navyboard Melbourne.
Use of base in Marshall Islands first reported by (? discharged) Chief Officer of British Ship RANGITANE.
Six responsible survivors interrogated at Port Moresby stated raiders moved in company after sinking RANGITANE, in position 37° S. 175° W. on Nov.28, 200 miles east then to Kermadec thence 025 S. 177° E. thence between New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands, thence near San Cristobal, thence Nauru, thence to anchorage in Sydney Island, arriving Dec. 12 departing Dec. 13, thence near Nauru, thence Emirau. In view of political importance attached to use of Marshall Islands, Navyboard Melbourne is requested to assess reliability.
Ref. your paragraph 2 have no information to remark further. Navyboard Melbourne has been requested to verify whether vessel named NANYO MARU or RANYO MARU.
(C. of I.S., Singapore 1540Z/30, to Ambassador, Tokyo).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NORD ATLANTIC — (B.2) German tankers here reported to have been alongside each other last night transferring cases. NORD ATLANTIC considered likely to sail very soon. (Consul, Vigo, 1450/30, to Admty.).

ACHILLES. — Arrived from Vigo ACHILLES 0010/30. (Bilbao, 1612/30 to Admty.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LEITO — December 29th arrival Italian steamer LEITO. (Valencia, 1950/30).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SIKIANG — Departure 30/12 SIKIANG for Reunion. (N.C.S.O. Saigon 09502/30.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 about 300 miles east of Azores
1 nearer Azores
1 about 47° 45' N., 09° W., at 1058/30 bound for Gironde.
4 in N.W. Approaches vaguely estimated to westward of 15° W., between 54° N., and 57° N.

German: 1 between Freetown and Cape de Verde Islands.
1 about 47° N., 7° 30' W., bound for Lorient
1 about 56° N., 12° W., within 40 miles radius.
1 within 40 miles radius from each of the following points.
(a) 57° 30' N., 21° 30' W.
(b) 58° N., 20° 30' W.,
(c) 59° 30' N., 20° W.
1 south of Iceland
1 between Faroes and Shetlands homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1255/30)

Your 2323/29. Re my 1134/28 which was repeated to WELLINGTON it will be observed that HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER were ordered to search on a line from the R/V position to North Channel. Your 2313/29 para 2. this will be done in future. (C. in C., W.A. 1848/30 to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked

By TUNA 18/12

Attacked in position 045° 28' N., 002° 27' W at 0430/18 German S/M U.32 type with torpedoes and gunfire. One non-vital shell hit. U-Boat's course and speed 000° 6 apparently making R/V but turned and ran towards boom after action. Chased for 53 minutes but on arrival of 2 escort vessels I was forced to dive. (See also Operations) Intense A/S activity by air by trawlers and 3 German M/S M M 1 class 7 miles West of Whistle Buoy on 27/12. Activity coincides with expected time of arrival U-Boat. (TUNA, 0100/30 to Capt S. 2.)

Your 0804/3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

Your 0804/3 (Originated by War Reg. 3/1/41 calling for Nr 287, not previously received in War Reg.) Following is repetition of NR 287 Addressed Admty 287, C. in C., H.F. C. in C., W.A. A.O.C. in C.C.
TUNA reports at 0430/18 in position 045° 28' N., 002° 27' W., attacked U-Boat possible German with torpedo and gun. U-Boat steering north apparently making R/V was hit not vitally by one shell and was chased for 53 minutes. Two escort vessels then arrived and forced TUNA to dive. At 2314/18 in position 045° 28' N., 001° 38' W., sank by gunfire armed tug steering 190° Intense A/S activity by air, Trawlers and three German Minesweepers M one Class on 27/12. Seaplane Patrol encountered as far as 7 miles southwest of Whistle Buoy. (V.A.S. 1019/30 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

31.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., H.F. in NELSON with 4 destroyers returned to Scapa at 1220 today from patrol of the Iceland Faroes Passage whence EDINBURGH had also returned to Scapa at 1051. REPULSE and 2 Destroyers also returned to Scapa at 0600 this morning from Convoy Escort duty in the Atlantic.

D/F bearings and W/T traffic at 0228 this morning and a reliable fix at 1151 today suggested movements of Enemy Naval Units between the Bergen and Namsos areas and off the Danish Coast; and a Convoy of 9 camouflaged M/V's moving slowly Northwards was reported about 10 miles S.W. of Ijmuiden at 1515.

British Air Activity

Submarines and Shipping at Bordeaux and two Train Ferries lying in the Verbendings Canal at Flushing were attacked by our A/C last night; but the two special Patrols ordered from Sullom Voe to the Norwegian Coast, as well as patrol UNST, were cancelled owing to the weather and no additional Patrols were flown today in the Rosyth area.

Enemy Air Activity

East Coast

Convoy PEWIT was shadowed by one aircraft at 1419 today off Clacton, where at 1429 Convoy AGENT (F.N.) was attacked by one aircraft which dropped 3 bombs without any damage. At 1621 two H.E. bombs were dropped on the South Pier at Lowestoft, also without causing any Naval damage or casualty.

Mining

Liverpool

At Liverpool duting the 24 hours ending at 1800 today 3 mines were detonated, one spontaneously, one by LL sweeper, and the third by the Swedish BUENOS AIRES some 30 miles N.W. of Birkenhead at about 1740. One Red Mine was detonated at 1145 this morning off the Mannoles.

/C. in C. Rosyth..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Moray Firth

C. in C., Rosyth considers that, in view of recent indications that U-Boats have been entering the Moray Firth where any interference with Convoys would be a serious matter, the Minefields in that area should be strengthened.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider

On the assumption that the warship raider reported in the South Atlantic has gone north and was the one which attacked Convoy W.S. 5 A on 25/12, the dispositions ordered in Admiralty 1917/24/11 are terminated. Accordingly-
CORNWALL's refit may be proceeded with (at Simonstown)
ENTERPRISE (last reported in Plate Area) may be sailed to form Force "T"
As DORSETSHIRE has had to replace BERWICK (damaged) in Force "K", DEVONSHIRE must be employed to escort W.S.5 A on latter part of the voyage to Durban.

Revised arrangements for E.S. 5 A (in substitution for those in A.T. 2219/26/11) are contained in Admiralty 0229/31.

BERWICK arrived at Gibraltar at 1745 today. An unexploded shell is considered to have been an 8 inch projectile.

Shells fired at EMPIRE TROOPER and CLEMATIS appear to have been 5.9 inch.

F.O.C. North Atlantic calls attention to the conjestion at Gibraltar, where almost every available berth inside the harbour is now occupied. The harbour is thus at the moment particularly vulnerable to air attack.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

At 0915 today the French armed trawler ASPIRANT BRUN passed Gibraltar East to West escorting 4 French merchant ships.

At 1500 the French armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE passed West to East escorting another 4 French merchant ships.

A Lisbon report (graded A.1.) states that French warships at Casablanca have now been given orders to keep clear of British men of war and avoid any action that might be considered provocative.

North Atlantic

VELOX and VIDETTE, destroyers, left Gibraltar at 1130 today for Freetown to replace FURY and FORESTER, which arrived at Gibraltar at 1300 today.

South Atlantic

VINDICTIVE and 2 destroyers arrived at Freetown this morning from Gibraltar.

Mediterranean

R.A.F. Headquarters, Malta, report successful attacks yesterday on Taranto, Crotonne, Naples and adjacent naval units, and observed 11 bursts round the target. Naples and Palermo were each bombed by one Wellington.

Valonn was bombed again today by 9 Wellingtn

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

If C. in C., Mediterranean, can spare EAGLE it is intended to form a hunting group for East Indies Station consisting of EAGLE and EMERALD.

COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa on Jan 2 to patrol off Kismayu.

The next naval bombardment of Kismayu will be known as Operation "Begun"

China

ABERDARE and HARRO, minesweepers, are very unsuitable for a hot climate, and C. in C., China offers them for service elsewhere.

MOST SECRET.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/31. (D.C. 1207/31.)(D.C. 2355/31.)

Oban.
A/A Defences. Adty. 1317/29. Understand result of R/C available tomorrow. Request deterrent defence be arranged as soon as possible to release A/A Cruiser now defending Anchorage.(Air Ministry 1600/31 to Fighter Command.)

Movements.

AUSTRALIA. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0010/31). To be sailed forthwith for Liverpool to dock on 2/1. Will be required sail from Clyde on 7/1. (D.O.D.H. 2147/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

REPULSE.
SOMALI,
MATABELE. Arrived Scapa 0600. (A.C.O.S. 0607/31.)

FITZROY. Arrived 0855. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0859/31.)

ACTIVE,
GEORGETOWN. Arrived 30/12. Fuelled and sailed 31/12. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0927/31.)

WHITSHED. Sailed Sheerness 1015. (C. in C. Nore 1022/31.)

CURACOA. Sailed Scapa 0918 to escort W.N.61. (A.C.O.S. 1035/31.)Arrived Scapa 2337 (A.C.O.S. 2340/31.)

LA CAPRICIEUSE. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1046/31.)

VIMY. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1053/31.)

EDINBURGH. Arrived Scapa 1051 (A.C.O.S.1130/31.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (F.O.C.O.S. 1536/31.)

MEYNELL. Sailed 1445 for Scapa (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/31.)

/BEVERLEY.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

BEVERLEY. Sailed for Liverpool. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1836/31.)

Operations.

Iceland-Faroes. Passage. Anti-Raider. Patrol. Arrived Scapa C. in C.H.F. in NELSON, with BEDOUIN, TARTAR, BEAGLE, SIKH. (A.C.O.S. 1220/31.) NELSON's position was probably reported by Enemy A/C at 1336 (D.D.I.C. 1303/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation. D.Z. Operation D.Z. para. 4 and D.C.1's 1143/30. Destroyers taking part are BEDOUIN, MATABELE, TARTAR, MASHONA. (C. in C. H.F. 1727/31 to C.S.2.)

ARETHUSA, AURORA, BEDOUIN, MATABELE, TARTAR, MASHONA, and two I-class Destroyers will be operating off the Norwegian Coast near Rostad on Night 1/2. (V.A.S. 2206/31.)

Submarines.

STURGEON. Sails Blyth 1100 routed by War Channel and Gap A, unescorted on surface. (C. in C. Rosyth 1036/31.) Will be at about 57° N. 1° E. at 0800/1, proceeding submerged by day towards 59° 11' N. 2° 30' E. (V.A.S. 1041/31) Sailed for Patrol(S.6. 1101/31.) To patrol between latitudes of Stadlandet and Fro Havet within 20 miles of Coast. (S.6.1128/31.) At your discretion proceed into Fro Havet during your Patrol and attack Shipping believed to pass close westward of Vaagsoen latitude 64° North. (V.A.A.1652/31 to STURGEON.) Is not to proceed North of 58° 20' N. until 0800/2. V.A.S. 2206/31.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1515/31.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/1. (V.A.S. 1631/31.)

MISTRAL. Arrived (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1714/31.)
WOLF.

L. 23. Will be exercising in Scapa Flow to-morrow. (A.C.O.S. 1719/31.)

/CACHALOT....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. Contd.

CACHALOT. Arrived Clyde escorted by SURPRISE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2204/31.)

SEALION. Is not to proceed South of 59° 30' N. until 0800/2. (V.A.S. 2206/31.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 1708/28. Both Patrols cancelled owing to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 0730/31.)

My 1758/19. Patrol FAIR will be flown daily at dawn, weather permitting. (C. in C. Rosyth 1018/31) Patrol UNIT cancelled today owing to weather. No additional Patrols being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1132/31.)

Bordeaux. AP/716/31/12. Repeat tonight operations ordered for Night 30/31. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/31 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Flushing. AP/717/31/12. Repeat tonight operations ordered for Night 30/31. (H.Q.C.C.1302/31 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Enemy Air Activity.

BREDA. (Dutch, 6941 Tons.) (Damaged in Air Attack on Oban 23/12.) Sunk in 56° 29' 12" N. 5° 35' W.(N.O.I.C. Oban 1040/31.)

Convoy PIMIT. Being shadowed by one A/C in 51° 29'N.0° 55'E. (BERKELEY 1419/31.) Fighters have been sent (Nore 1520/31.)

Convoy AGENT. One A/C in 51° 37' N. 1° 12' E. 3 Bombs. No hits. (WOLSEY 1429 and 1431/31.)

Lowestoft. 2 H.E. Bombs dropped on South Pier at 1621. No Naval casualties or damage. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1650/31.)

Mining.

Kuydecote Passage. Your 1155/25. One Unit of M.T.B's now ready. Particulars of proposed laying. Operation will take place as soon as weather permits. (C. in C. Nore 1230/31.

/Operation D.Z.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.
See Operations.

Operation D.N.

D.N.6. and D.N.65.

RAML. 1046/28. Additional Destroyers can be made available. HOOD will cover operations and EDINBURGH will provide Ocean Escort. (C. in C. N.F. 1606/31.)

Thames.

My 1940/29. The position of the mine has now been swept over about a dozen times with Skid Sweep with Negative results. It is considered always possible for an unignited parachute flare to be mistaken for a parachute mine. Sweeping will be continued till 1700 after which I propose opening the River unless contrary orders are received. (F.O.I.C. London 1530/31 to C. in C. Nore.

Falmouth.

One Red Mine detonated at 1145/31 in 50° 7' 23" N. 5° 1' 40" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1646/31.)

Moray Firth.

There are indications that enemy S/ms have been entering Moray Firth. Interference with convoys in this area would be a serious matter since evasive routeing is not possible. It is for consideration that mine fields covering Moray Firth should be strengthened. (C. in C. Rosyth 1830/31. to Adty.)

BUENOS AIRES.

(Swedish 3701 tons) Reported by A/S Yacht LADY BLANCHE at 1740 today, mined in 53° 37' N. 3° 44' W. Crew abandoned ship and are being taken to Fleetwood by Trawler BISHOP ROCK. Ship anchored. Bulkheads reported holding. Rescue Tug AMSTERDAM going to assistance daylight tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2200/31 to Adty.)

Arrived AMSTERDAM towing BUENOS AIRES (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1810/2.)

Liverpool.

For 24 hours ending 1800/31. One Mine self-detonated, one by LL sweep, and one by BUENOS AIRES. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2227/31.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast.

D/F bearings suggest Enemy Surface Craft off Norwegian Coast. Signals intercepted at 2354, 0030, and 0046. W.T.I. indicates movements of Naval Units between Bergen and Namsos areas. (D.D.I.C. 0228/31.)

W.T.I. W/T traffic on the Norwegian Coast is Greater in volume than usual. It suggests movements of Naval units off the Coast between Bergen and Namsos areas in an unknown direction. (D.D.I.C. 1253/31 to C. in C.H.F.)

Danish Coast.

At 1117/31 Enemy Unit in 57°50' N. 7° 20' E. D/F reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1151/31.)

Dutch Coast.

Convoy of 9 camouflaged M/V's moving slowly Northwards reported about 10 Miles S.W. of Ijmuiden at 1515/31. (O.I.C. 216.)

Lulea reported closed.

(a) Reported last shipment for season from Lulea sailed about 20th, the port being closed by ice some five days later. A.S.

(b) Following voyages illustrate flexibility of German arrangements for discharging iron ore. (N.A. Stockholm 1967/31. to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

GOLDEN HEART. (Steam Drifter) Damaged stem at 1600/30 while going alongside s.s. ANTIOPE in Methil Roads. Not seaworthy.(N.O.I.C. Methil 1941/31.)

Unknown Ship. Proceed forthwith to assist Unknown Ship on fire in 56° 58' N. 7° 57' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1435/31 to SCHELDE.).

CHESAPEAKE. (British Tanker, 8955 Tons.) Engine disabled in 54°31' N. 17° 28' W. Require Tug and Escort (CHESAPEAKE. Recd. 2145/31.) Detach one ship to assist. DILIGENT being sent. (C. in C. W.A. 2252/31 to MALLOW.) Proceed forthwith to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2258/31 to TENACITY.) Proceed to 54° 55' N. 18° 58' W. where ship was reported at 1830 today drifting West. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2321/1 to TENACITY) Sunderland A/C should reach area about 1500 to search (C. in C. W.A. 0944/2 and 1118/2 to ARABIS.) Detach CANDYTUFT to stand by (WESTCOTT 1005/2 to BLUEBELL) WESTCOTT reports CHESAPEAKE in 54° 30' N. 18° 33' W. at 1005/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1234/2 to ARABIS,DILIGENT.) ARABIS now standing by (CHESAPEAKE 1530/2 to Portishead Radio.) Not yet located CHESAPEAKE (TENACITY 1920/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Latitude now 55° 31' N. Escort has departed (CHESAPEAKE 0930/3 to Adty.) Not to be left unescorted longer than absolutely necessary. (C. in C. W.A. 1212/3 to ARABIS.)

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B.C. 267. Sailed 0345/31, escort HEARTSEASE, 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1136/31.)

S.L.S.61. See South Atlantic. (C. in C. S.A., 1201 N/31.)

C.W. 21. List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1504/31.)

H X 95. On time at R.V. with 18 ships, remainder scattered in gale. All now reported. (D.T.D. 1732/31 to N.S.H. Ottawa.)

H.G.42. Date and route. Escort LEITH (D.T.D. 1838/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

F.N.70. Arrived 1000/31. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1029/31)

F.N.71. E.T.A. [illegible] C Buoy 0300. (WALLACE, 1130/31.) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber 1150/31.)

F.N.70 and 71. Deletions. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1253/31.)

S.L.S8.S. Arrived escorted by HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, WELLINGTON. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1345/31.)

S.C.16. SPIND and ASHBY arrived. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1402/31.)

F.N.72. List. (N.C.S.O, Thames 1414/31.)

S.L.S.59. Route from R.V. (D.T.D. to C. in C.W.A. 1612/31.

W.N.64. Code "Metric". 1200/3. Escorts SOUTHERN PRIDE, HORNPIPE. 8 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1576/31.)

W.N.62. My 1541/30. Commodore, and alternative daylight R.V. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1627/31.)

MOST SECRET.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

F.3.76. List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1627/31.)

F.N.71A. Ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1623/31, N.C.S.O. Humber, 1732/31.)

F.N.50. 2200/1. BLACKFLY and ELLESMERE, additional escort FOWEY. 22 ships 15 owners. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1634/31.)

O.B.M.268. List. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1650/31.)

S.C.17. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D., 1751/31.)

S.C.16.
HX97. Your 1855/30. Return to Clyde escorting any ships from S.C 16 or H X 97 met on route. (C. in C. W.A. 0124/31. to LADY MADELINE.)

S.C.16. Have searched 20 miles beyond estimated position of convoy and passed five ships widely separated on M.L.A. Am rejoining rear-most ship which was in position 058° 34' N. 009° 44' West at 0330. (ANTELOPE, 0440/31. to ACTIVE)

S. M.V's. Your 1104/30. Convoy Major, all three ships have sailed for R/V, MADRONO expected time of arrival dark hours 0900/1. ANTONIA and AGATHA expected time of arrival Brixham 0900/1. (N.C.S.O. Barry, 0947/31, to C. in C.W.A.

W.N. 61. Scapa departures CURACOA 0918 to escort WN 61. (A.C.O.S. 1035/31.)

Expected time of arrival W.N.61 Kinnaird Head 2130/31.(RUMBA, 1115/31.)

F.N.50. Act as additional A/A escort to F N 50 sailing at 2200/1. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FOWEY to join W.N.63 due Duncansby Head 1330/4. Code word for F N 50, Mission, and W N 63, Material. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1133/31

W.N.63.

MOST SECRET.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

S. L. 89.

SHipping Contd.

My 1526/30. Proceed through 56° 40' N. 18° 00' W instead of 56° 00' N. 18° 00' W and thence on route ordered (C. in C. W.A. 1500/31. to CATHAY.)

S M.V.'s.

Your 1944/29. Portsmouth Group arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1424/31 to N. C. S. O. Dartmouth.)

S M.V.'s.

Your 1807/30, arrived 1437/31. (N.O.I.C. Poole, 1500/31, to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth.)

H.X.97.

Unless in company with any of H X 97 proceed to vicinity of 55° 30' 11° 00' and sweep to North Channel escorting any of S.C.16 encountered.

S.C.16.

(C. in C. W.A. 1610/31. to WHITEHALL, VANQUISHER.)

S.C.16.

Unless escorting any ships proceed to vicinity 055° 30' North 010° West and sweep to North Channel escorting any ship of S C 16 met on route.
(C. in C. W.A. 1652/31 to VANQUISHER, WHITEHALL.)

S.C16.

Your 1652 am escorting AGNIA MARINA and HEPATICA who has no armament and only the pattern depth charge.
My position course and speed are at 1900 056° 58' N. 014° 55' W 10° S.
(VANQUISHER, 1801/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.16.B.

Request you will sail HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to meet S.C.16 B. estimated to reach 054° 24' N. 005° 14' W. at 1000 tomorrow. Convoy has been scattered by bad weather. Bristol Channel ships may not be present.
(C. in C. W.A. 1646/31 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)

F. N. 72.

F. S. 76.
F. N. 73.

Additional escort for F N 72 and F S 76 SHELDRAKE. Additional escort for F.N 73 SHEARWATER breaking off at daylight to return to Harwich before dark on Thursday 2nd.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1826/31 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMAND.

Shipping Contd.

C.B.266.

462. If in company or vicinity of portion of convoy C.B.266 escort them on course 270 degrees until reaching 17 degs. W. in order to clear U/B's on patrol.(C. in C. W.A. 1852/31 to SKATE, SCIMITAR.)

C.N.21.

C. W. 21 passed Dover at 2030 without being shelled.(V.A. Dover 2324/31.)

Troop Convoys.
W. S. 5. B.

HIGHLAND, PRINCESS, WINCHESTER CASTLE, and MONARCH OF BERMUDA at Avonmouth and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND at Newport are to join Convoy W.S.5 (B), which sails from Liverpool 7/1. Convoy conference arrangements named above, The Master of the DUCHESS OF RICHMOND being instructed to proceed to Avonmouth for the purpose. The four ships named are to proceed in company from the Bristol Channel to a R/V with the Liverpool Section.(D.T.D. 1825/31, to to F.O.I.C. Milford, Cardiff, Liverpool.)

Troop Convoys.
W.S.5.B.

1. W S 5 B will leave Liverpool Bar 1700/7/1/41 speed of advance calculated at 13½ knots.

2. Route:-

A.	6 miles	270°	from Overoay.
B.One	57° 00'	North	10° 00' West.
B.Two	58° 30'	North	15° 30' West.
C.	56° 30'	North	17° 00' West.
D.	52° 00'	North	25° 00' West.
E.	39° 30'	North	33° 30' West.
F.	14° 30'	North	25° 48' West.
G.	06° 00'	North	15° 00' West.

3. Choice of route North or South of Rockall will be thence to Freetown.

4. R/V X is established in position 48° 10' North 27° 45' West, promulgated later.

5. Position Y is established in 36° 00' North 13° 00' West.
(D.O.D. (H) 2340/31 to C. in C.W.A.etc.)

MOST SECRET.

53. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.
My 2350/53 and my 2340/31.

W.S.6.B.

1. WINDSOR CASTLE will sail from Liverpool.
2. MONARCH OF BERMUDA will sail in W.S.6B from Avonmouth, with 1000 personnel for Gibraltar. She will leave convoy (date) and proceed to Gibraltar escorted by FEARLESS and FORESIGHT at 18 knots passing through position Y.
3. RAMILLIES will not now be required for ocean escort. Her place will be taken by AUSTRALIA and EMERALD.
4. AUSTRALIA will be required to sail with Clyde portion.
5. EMERALD will be sailed from Plymouth routed south of Ireland so as to join Convoy in position X.
6. A/A Cruiser escort should sail from the Clyde. After EMERALD has joined they should return to U.K. as directed by C. in C. H. F.(D.O.D.(H) 2341/31 to C. in C. W.A, etc.)(See also D.O.D.(F) 2346/31 under Mediterranean)

GEORGIC
WARWICK CASTLE
RAMILLIES.

GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE speed 18 knots will be ready to sail from Clyde on 9th January, carrying Government and Military Personnel to Halifax. Ocean escort will be provided by RAMILLIES, C. in C. W. Approaches is requested to sail RAMILLIES from Plymouth on 6/1 to Clyde arranging destroyer escort from 8th D.F. C. in C. W is requested to sail RAMILLIES and convoy providing A/S escort. Admiralty will provide route. 2302/31 to C. in C.W.A. etc.)(D.O.D.(H).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A. and Raider

Movements etc., after Action with Berwick on 25/12/40.

FURIOUS

On completion of Operation "Monsoon" FURIOUS is to be escorted to U.K. by NEPTUNE. (D.O.D. (F) 0215/31 to C. in C., S.A.)

KENYA
ARGUS
BERWICK

Request you will sail KENYA, ARGUS and BERWICK (if ready) in company to U.K. as soon as convenient after arrival of KENYA. JAGUAR may be retained until completion of "Excess". (D.O.D. (F) 0216/31 to F.O.C. N.A.)

Dispositions
orce T
Force K

1. On the assumption that the warship raider reported in the South Atlantic has gone north and was the one which attacked W.S.5 A convoy on 25th/12, it is considered that the dispositions referred to in A.T. 1917/24/11 should now be completed.

2. It is requested therefore that
(a) CORNWALL's refit may be proceeded with.
(b) ENTERPRISE may be sailed to form Force "T" as soon as practicable.

3. Consequent on the damage to BERWICK and the necessity for DORSETSHIRE to take her place in Force "K" it is regretted that DEVONSHIRE must be employed to escort W.S.5A on the latter part of the voyage to Durban.

4. The following arrangements for W.S.5 A are to be substituted for those given in A.T. 2219/26/11.
(a) Freetown to Durban HAWKINS covered by Force "K" until joined by DEVONSHIRE.
(b) Durban to Aden. SHROPSHIRE and HAWKINS.

5. It is intended as soon as
(a) DEVONSHIRE joins HAWKINS that Force "K" in co-operation with the South American Division should carry out a Raider sweep in the South Atlantic about which a further signal will be made.
(b) DEVONSHIRE is relieved by SHROPSHIRE that she should proceed to the United Kingdom

/6.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S.5 A and Raider

Movements etc., after Action with Berwick on 25/12/40.

Dispositions Force T Force K- Contd.

6. A further signal will be made about subsequent W.S. series convoys and the proposed escort arrangements. It is hoped that SHROPSHIRE will refit as soon as CORNWAL has finished. (D.O.D. (F) 0229/31 (Amended 1217/31) to C. i C's S.A. and E.I., S.O. Force K.)

BERWICK

Expected time of arrival 1745 A today. (BERWICK, 0930A/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Gibraltar arrival 31/12 1745, BERWICK. (S.O.I. Gib., 1754/31 to Admty.)

Enemy 5.9" Shells

Shells fired at EMPIRE TROOPER and CLEMATIS appear to have been 5.9 inch. Request you will obtain all available evidence from ships present at Gibraltar and report your views as to type of enemy warship encountered by the convoy. (V.C.N.S. 1051/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1051/31. An unexploded shell which hit BERWICK and which is distorted as a result of contact with armour is at least (? seven)point seven inches in diameter. It is considered that this was undoubtedly and eight inch ?.* Further signal will be made when enquiries are completed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2119/31 to Admty.)* Projectile.

Gibraltar Congestion

My 2324/30. Almost everay available berth inside harbour is now occupied. Ships include 3 capital ships, 2 of which are crippled, 2 aircraft carriers and numerous other warships. Also five large M.T. ships understood to contain exceedingly important and valuable cargoes including large number of mines. EMPIRE TROOPER (Probably corrupt. Could be GERANIUM, AURANIA or KENYA) French Light Cruiser MOGADOR and DERBYSHIRE expected shortly. Harbour is thus at moment particularly vulnerable to air attack. (F.O.C.N.A., 1100/31 to Admty.)

/VELOX.....

MOST SECRET

30.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider-Contd.

Movements etc., after Action with BERWICK on 25/12/40

VELOX VIDETTE	Gibraltar departures 31/12 1130. VELOX, VIDETTE in accordance with my 2210/30. E.T.A. 1300 z + 1. Tuesday 7/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132/31 to Admty.) Note:- To relieve FURY and FORESTER at Freetown.)
BRIDGEWATER ASPHODEL to escort W.S. 5 A.	BRIDGEWATER is to sail from Freetown and ASPHODEL is to part company with DELHI, MILFORD and CALENDULA so as to R/V with convoy W.S. 5 A at 1700/4. Convoy estimated to be in position 009° 50' N., 016° 30' W at this time is routed through 008° 20' N., 015° 00' W., thence to Freetown speed of advance 10½ knots. ISIS and ENCOUNTER will be in company with convoy with other naval forces. (C. in C., S.A. 1355/31)
ISIS ENCOUNTER	Your 1716/30 para (B) ISIS and ENCOUNTER sail from Freetown 1800/31 to R/V with W.S. 5 A 0800/2 in position 17° 50' N., 19° 50' W., It is hoped that ASPHODEL and BRIDGEWATER will R/V with W.S. 5 A 0700/4 one day out from Freetown. (C. in C., S.A. 1947/31 to Admty.)
Press Report	Press representatives ask to be allowed to report recent attacks on Atlantic Convoys. It is assumed no mention of BONAVENTURE's part may be made but request information whether details of BERWICK's part excluding own damage may be reported. (S.O.Force H., 1434/31 to Admty.)
FORESTER FURY	Gibraltar arrivals 1300/31. FORESTER and FURY. (S.O.I. Gib., 1442/31)
BONAVENTURE M.T.Ships	Your 2341/27. BONAVENTURE and M.T. ships are being treated as separate units having no further connection with Force "H". Masters of ships are being instructed prepare statements of provisions fuel etc., required for Cape passage. Military personnel ex BONAVENTURE have been landed and given to believ that they will operate from Gibraltar. (S.O.Force H., 1528/31 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Vichy Ships.

Gibraltar 0915/31 French Armed Trawler ASPIRANT BRUN passed East to West escorting KILISSI MEDJERDA P.I.M.2 GUADELOUPE.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1103/31 to Admty.)

Dakar Reinforcements.

My 0912/15 and my 0939/17. Eli reports (? ship) camouflaged left Casablanca last week for Dakar with 1800 Air Force ratings, 100 tons munitions including 6 inch and 16 inch naval shells.
(2) Naval informants believe that recent heavy shipments and repatriation of Senegalese troops are for the defence of Dakar.
(3) Military informant in Casablanca states that a force consisting of five light columns totalling 12000 men is being organized by General Falvi (see my 0945/18) to protect French Nigeria or attack Lake Chad territory. General F. is at present at Dahomey.
(Acting Consul-Gen., Tangier, 1200/31, to F.O.).

Vichy Warships Casablanca.

State of ships at Casablanca 28/12 JEAN BART, GLOIRE, PRIMAGUET, EPERVIER, MILAN, BRESTOIS. Ten or eleven submarines, other small craft as before. French warships at Casablanca have now been given orders to keep clear of British men-of-war and to avoid any action that might be considered provocative. Grade A one.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1519/31 to Admty.)

ALSACE.

Your 1832/24 December not known whether French cableship ALSACE is still in Dakar. Enquiries are being made through Governor Gambia.
(C.in C. S.A. 1529N/31 to Admty.)

Gibraltar 31/12 1500. French armed trawler LA TOULONAISE passed from westward to eastward escorting French ships CHANTILLY, SUROIT, SALLY-MAERSK, OCTANE.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1622/31, to Admty.)

Dakar Intelligence.

Following received from Navy Department from Dakar. Arrivals. French ships ANDRE MOYRAND from Casablanca 21/12, CHAMPOLLION with N.C.O. native troops 28/12. BENTEY from south 30/12. Departures. French ships AISNE for unknown destination, KAKOULIMA for south and PORT DE SOUVILLE for Morocco 28/12.
(N.A. Washington, 1804/31 to Admty.)

/INDOCHINOIS,
COLONIAL,
CUBA.

.....

MOST SECRET.

31.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

INDOCHINOIS, COLONIAL, CUBA.

Your 1017/30. It has been decided that crew of INDO-CHINOIS are to be repatriated when convenient occasion arises, and if there is space in COLONIAL after CUBA personnel have been accommodated, as many as can be taken should be released and put on COLONIAL. CUBA personnel should, however, be given priority and if necessary, a further ship will be provided for INDO-CHINOIS personnel who remain. (Md. of M. 1928/31 to C.in C. S.A.).

North Atlantic.

Azores Patrol, PANDORA, OLYMPUS, OTUS, OSIRIS

(A) PANDORA's Battery unfit for War Patrol but suitable for passage.
Propose PANDORA after arrival Gibraltar proceeds to U.K. for new battery.
PANDORA then to proceed to Azores.
(C) Azores patrol can be maintained by OLYMPUS and OTUS until 5th Feb. and continued by them from 21st Feb.
(D) Propose that a submarine from Second Flotilla fills gap between 5th Feb. and date PANDORA can be made available again
(E) OSIRIS has been considered as an alternative but in this event would not arrive U.K. until 27th Feb. since she will not arrive Gibraltar in time to proceed on patrol instead of OTUS.
(S. 8, 1720/31, to V.A.S.).

Daily summary operations.

Two routine A/S Patrols 1 surface recco west in search floating dock which was found off Casablanca.
(200 Group, 1721/31 to Air Min.)

Whalers.

H.M. Whalers SKUDD six and POLAR five arrived Ponta Delgada 1100 G.M.T. 31/12. Route to Las Palmas required.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada T.H.I. 1240/31).

IMPERIALIST.

Gibraltar departure 1300/31 IMPERIALIST for T.S. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 2346/31).

South Atlantic.

Freetown Arrivals.

Arrival 0800/31 - VINDICTIVE, ISIS, ENCOUNTER. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0831/31 to Admty.)

ROTHLEY

British ship ROTHLEY due Capetown 27/12, from Port Lincoln not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0941/31).

KING ARTHUR

Overdue shipping KING ARTHUR due Capetown 27/12 from Mauritius not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0946B/31).

STIKLESTAD

Overdue shipping STIKLESTAD (Norwegian tanker) due Capetown 27/12 from U.K. not arrived. (Capetown, 1125/31).

/ VIRGINIA S. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

VIRGINIA S. — Overdue shipping. VIRGINIA S (Greek, 3885 tons) Milford Haven Departure 17/11 due Buenos Aires 20/12 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1723/31).

"Y" Report ALGIC — Admty. (? Portishead Radio T.S.I. 2056/20) Description appears to fit a whale factory ship accompanied by four whale catchers but have been unable to obtain any information from local agents that such vessels are expected in these waters. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1020S/31 to C.in C. S.A.).

My 1020/31 it has now been ascertained from agents of Whale Factory ship TERJE VIKEN that ship is expected at Capetown sometime soon from either New York or Halifax but confirmation of her departure has not been received. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1208/31 to C.in C. S.A.)

S.L.S.61 ISIS ENCOUNTER ASPHODEL BRIDGEWATER — Convoy S.L.S.61 approximately 25 ships sails Freetown 1200 from West first routed through position:- (b) 012° 00' N. 020° 20' W.
(c) 025° 00' N. 021° 30' W. then through 038° 00' N. 020° 00' W. speed of advance 6½ knots.
U-Boat probably Italian was in position 012° 30' N. 021° 30' W. 27/12.
ISIS and ENCOUNTER sail from Freetown 1800/31/12 to rendezvous with Force K and convoy in position 017° 50' N. 019 50' W. at 0800/2/1/41.
Hoped ASPHODEL and BRIDGEWATER will meet convoy daylight 4/1/41 as additional escort. (C.in C. S.A. 1201N/31 to S.O. Force K).

ANDRES. — Norwegian S.S. ANDRES badly ashore off Burmanciere Island Tutoya exposed position jettisoning of cargo reported necessary. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1933Z/31 S.A.D. A. and W.I. Squadron).

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. Taranto, Crotonne, Naples, Palermo bombed — 8 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched to attack battleship in dock at Taranto and adjacent naval units. 3 Wellingtons despatched to attack battleships and docks Naples. (Each aircraft carried 2 bombs of 500 lbs and 7 of 250 S.A.P.)
Taranto Aschelen.

/ 5 aircraft .....

MOST SECRET.

31.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report Taranto, Crotonne, Naples, Palermo bombed

5 aircraft released all bombs in stick over target. 11 bursts seen round target. 1 Wellington unable to release bombs over Taranto but eventually succeeded in releasing whole load over alternative target, chemical factory at Crotonne. No results seen. Naples Eschelen. 1 Wellington dropped bomb load over Torree Anninziata, no results seen. Second Wellington failed to locate target so attacked alternative target, Palermo Port facilities dropping whole bomb load. 1 burst seen on target but no further results observed due to clouds. Lights seen on south Sicilian coast. Flashing signals seen at sea in position 38.05" north 16.50" east. Cape Rizzuto beacon lit on outward journey but not on return. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0740/31 to A.O.C. in C.)

Air Resources.

A. 232. For Chiefs of Staff from Commanders-in-Chief. Proposals for increase in air squadrons. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 0758/31) See Mediterranean Volume.

Turkish Ports.

Proposal to construct 5 ports on Black Sea Coasts and Southern Turkey. (M.A. Angora to Admty. 1155/31) See Mediterranean Volume.

Submarines.

S.O. 1st Submarine Flotilla's 1247/30 (Return of O, P, & R submarines to U.K.) concur.

Air Report Tobruk.

Operational Summary No. 204 to 1200 hours 31/12/40.
Egypt. Reconnaissance reported 5 small ships at Tobruk.
Greece. 30/12. 1 Sunderland patrolled the South East Ionian Sea for enemy surface shipping.
Sudan. Day 30/12. 1 Wellesley made an anti-submarine patrol in the Suakin Archipelago.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1209/31 to Air Min.)

Malta Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 31/12. All times G.M.T. 0650-1115 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Taranto for shipping. If no opposition was to proceed to Brindisi. On arrival Taranto enemy fighter patrols seen over port and also out to sea. Lack of cloud cover and clear weather made it inadvisable to press further. Brindisi not reconnoitred for above reasons. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1725/31 to Air Min.)

/ Leros Air Raid .....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Leros Air Raid. My 1748/16 full visible report now available; correct paragraph (a) Victualling store burnt, paragraph (b) victualling not ordnance office.
Add: Naval Barracks dormitory hit and destroyed. (Wolffson, Beyoglu 1812/31, to S.O.I., Med.).

Roumania. Your 1838/27. First intermediary arrested in Roumania for reasons not connected with negotiations.
New Intermediary only just chosen and may proceed to Roumania within a week.
(N.A. Angora, 1815/31, to Admty.)

OTUS. Leave patrol off Palermo p.m. on 2/1/41 and proceed direct to carry out offensive patrol in Area 038° 40' N., 008° 50' E. 000° - 25 - 32 during daylight hours of 4/1/41.
You will be ordered to leave that patrol and be routed to Gibraltar by Force H.
Anticipated positions and courses submarines at 1800/3 (minus one) will be:-
UNIQUE - 038° 08' N. 008° 54' E. - 090°
OSIRIS - 038° 25' N. 007° 40' E. - 265°
Both have been informed you will probably leave new patrol area p.m. on /4 four for Gibraltar. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1825/31 to OTUS).

Seamen. Your 1433/27. (500 young Ratings being sent to Mediterranean) Yes. These left in Convoy W.S.5A on 18th December.
(D.F.S. 1917/31 to C.in-C. Med.)

Convoy W.S.5B
EMERALD
EAGLE
AUSTRALIA

My 2219/26/11. Escort for W.S.5B will now be provided by AUSTRALIA and EMERALD.
2. On arrival at Aden, it is intended that EMERALD shall reinforce C.in C. East Indies. If and when C.in C. Mediterranean can spare EAGLE it is intended to form a Hunting Group of EAGLE and EMERALD.
3. AUSTRALIA is to escort convoy to Suez, after which it is intended that she should proceed through the Mediterranean to join the Home Fleet.
4. During her westward passage from Alexandria she would be available to assist in the return of suitable fast empty M.T. ships and transports.
5. (Expected date of arrival of W.S.5B at Suez), it seems likely that passage through the Narrows could be made a favourable moon period.
(D.O.D.(F) 2346/31 to C.in C's S.A., E.I., H.F., Med.)

/ BANDOLERO sunk. ....

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

BANDOLERO sunk. — Regret A/S Trawler BANDOLERO was sunk in collision with H.M.A.S. WATERHEN at 2115/30 in Gulf of Sollum. No casualties. WATERHEN returning to Alexandria with bow collapsed as far as collision bulkhead. (C.in C. Med., 2351/31).

East Indies.

BARBETTE
BARNET
WARIALDA — My 0852/27 B.D.V. BARBETTE and B.D.V. BARNET sailed Colombo for Bombay 0937Z/30. Programme in my 1152/16 will be approximately four days late.
F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to signal intended date of sailing of these vessels from Bombay and e.t.a. at Khorya Morya Bay and S.N.O. Persian Gulf to sail WARIALDA from Khor Kuwai accordingly. 0534/31.

BARBETTE
Boom D.V. — My 1152/16, para. four, amend first sentence to read "on arrival Mediterranean only skipper and guns crew remain in BARBETTE" two engineers have been lent for passage request they may be returned to Bombay or Colombo. 1324Z/31.

CAPE TOWN. — ~~xxx~~. My 0698/27. On arrival at position 005°N. 092° E. proceed to position 005° 30' 094° giving cover to HARKUNDA thence through positions (a) 003° 082°, thence to Trincomalee arriving 0200Z/6/1/41. (C.in C. E.I. 0726Z/31 to CAPE TOWN).

COLOMBO,
Kismayu
Patrol — COLOMBO to leave Mombasa A.M. 2/1/41 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu. (C.in C. E.I., 0728/31 to COLOMBO).

CERES.
H/S Group 142. — CERES is to leave Mombasa 2/1/41 and proceed to Dar-Es-Salaam to arrive 0700Z/3/1/41.
CERES to leave Dar-Es-Salaam p.m.3/1 and proceed to Lindi to arrive at 0600Z/4/1.
CERES to supply minesweeping group 142 due Lindi A.M. 4/1, with sufficient fuel water and ? escort their passage to Mombasa.
After replenishing minesweeping group 142 CERES is to proceed to Mombasa.
Minesweeping group 142 is to be sailed for Mombasa as soon as practicable.
(C.in C. E.I. 0756Z/31 to CERES).

CANBERRA. — Your 0822Z/28 (Escorts for U.S.8) concur. Request CANBERRA returns to Colombo on completion. Ship has had a prolonged period of hard steaming and it is desired she should remain in harbour if possible. Anticipated date U.S.9 will leave Fremantle. Arrangements for escort will be signalled later.
(Naval Board Melbourne, 0850Z/31 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ Abadan defence ....

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31.12.1940.
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Abadan defence.

Air Min. X.357 30/12 have taken action to warn A I O C authorities and R.A.F. Stations in vicinity. Have not passed information to Iraqi or Iranian Authorities - although Shatt-Al-Arab and Basrah port defences are administered by British Officers. Latter are responsible largely to Iraqi Government. Request confirmation if Iraqi Government is to be officially informed as otherwise mull precautions at Basrah Port and in Shatt-Al-Arab cannot be put into effect. Similar difficulties exist at Abadan for A I O C vis-a-vis Iranian Governement. Propose to keep our only two Gladiators at Qabbansyo.
(A.H.Q. Iraq.1305/31 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Ref. Air Min. X.367 30/12.
No objection to your despatching Gladiators to Shaibah if aircraft available and crews can be spared. Information from sure source suggests interest in black-out conditions. Probable therefore that attack if contemplated intended to be by night when Gladiators would not be of much value without a searchlight organisation.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1841/31 to Iraq).

RANCHI.

RANCHI sailed in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 0702Z/30. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1432Z/31 to Admty.)

Operation "Begun"

The next naval bombardment of Kismayu with air co-operation will be known by the code name of operation "Begun".
(C.in C. E.I. 1316Z/31 to Admty.)

Air Report.

Summary No. 202 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 31/12.
0430 1 Blenheim 203 Squadron returning from convoy futies based Kamaran reconnoitred Ansab area. No harbour activities seen.
0810 3 Blenheims 8 Squadron attacked stores and warehouses Assab. Bombs in target area and adjacent waterfront.
0820 to 0845 1 of these aircraft reconnoitred Assab area. No shipping changes since 27/12.
(A.H.Q. Adm. 1830/31).

S.W.4 B.

Your 0700/30 (no trace in W.H.).
Following is composition of S.W. four B STRATHNAVER, VICEROY OF INDIA, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL all empty to U.K. STRATHAIRD OTRANTO each with 380 families for Durban and few service personnel for U.K. EMPRESS OF CANADA with 380 families for Durban will call Aden to land 500 R.A.F. personnel and embark any personnel for U.K.

/ ANDES ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

S.W.4 B. (contd.)

ANDES, STRATHALLAN, ORCADES carrying total 6700 prisoners of war for Bombay. REINA DEL PACIFICO ex Port Sudan empty for U.K. D. of S.T. is requested to send bunkering instructions.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt, 1855/31, to C.in C. E.I.)

Kismayu, Contraband Traffic.

Your 1935/30 being passed to Admiralty and C.O.I.S. Singapore noted. With the ships at my disposal I am unable to do more than is being done. A.O.C. Nairobi is doing all he possibly can to assist me but I understand he is short of aircraft due to commitments elsewhere. The solution is capture of the port. N.O.I.C. Kilindini inform A.O.C. Nairobi of these signals.
(C.in C. E.I., 1930Z/31 to R.A. Alexandria (for N.L. E.I.)

EMERALD, EAGLE, hunting group.

On arrival at Aden with W.S.5B, to reinforce C.in C. East Indies. If C.in C. Mediterranean can spare EAGLE, it is intended to form a hunting group of EAGLE and EMERALD. (D.O.D.(F) 2346/31 - for other details in this signal, see Mediterranean).

China.

Moller Cargoes

My 0859/27 para. three (Subject Action against Chinese owned Cargo) CARMEN MOLLER'S Lighter and JESSIE MOLLER now discharging cargo.
(N.L.O. Shanghai, 0849Z/31, to C.in C. China).

ABERDARE, HARROW

ABERDARE and HARROW are very unsuitable for a hot climate and could shortly be released in view of number of local vessels now available as minesweepers. Request instructions for their disposal.
(C.in C. China, 0930/31 to Admty.)

Intelligence.

F.E.W.11. No major change.
(A) Japan. Anti British broadcasts revived.
(B) Indo China and Thailand.
French have refused offer of mediation by Japan.
(C) Raider situation. Pacific Raiders were MANYO MARU (Senior Officer, TOKYO MARU (Probably ex KULMERLAND) and NARVIK. 26/12 Raider again shelled Nauru destroyed jetty tank phosphate works and moorings. Warning given, no lives lost. Evidence that tender replenished in Japanese Harbour.
(Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 1201Z/31 to A.C.B.N.).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

LACONIA, H.X.98.

LACONIA will leave Halifax A.M. tomorrow Wednesday and rendezvous with H.X.98 off Sydney. Subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A. 3rd B.S. 1142/31 to Admty.)

DESPATCH.

Leave Nassau 2/1 and proceed to investigate Cay Sal Bank Florida Straits for suitable fuelling anchorage for cruiser operating in this area. Thence carry out following programme. (details). Governor British Honduras and Commissioner Caymad Island will be informed. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1221/31 to Commodore, West Indies, in DESPATCH).

Free French Refugees.

Governor of Windward Islands's telegram 30/12 to S. of S. for Colonies. Am of opinion that early action is desirable by Colonial Office to remove these Refugees from St. Lucia and send them to Trinidad or Bermuda for transport in small parties by Tankers or Convoy to Freetown or U.K. where they could join Free French Forces which is their desire. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1304/31 to Admty.)

Enemy Seamen Prisoners, Jamaica.

Please furnish complete nominal roll of these enemy merchant seamen by first convenient mail. Most convenient course will be to have A.F.W. 3000 completed by each individual adapting the questions to the case of merchant seamen where necessary, for example ship and owner instead of regiment and battalion. It is particularly desired to know whether seamen have close relatives serving in enemy ships overseas and the questions relating to parents and relatives might be extended to cover this. Seamen cannot be obliged to answer this latter question but a suggestion that letters might be more conveniently routed if the answer were known might be an inducement. Forward completed forms to War Office not to P.W.I.B. who are not concerned with merchant seamen. (W.O. to O.C. Troops, Jamaica, 1520/31).

Australia.

NOTOU
RINGWOOD

Now known that French NOTOU, 2489 tons, was sunk by a raider on 16/10 approximately in 23.50 S., 164.10 E., and the Norwegian RINGWOOD, 7203 tons, was sunk on 15/10 in approx. position 02.13 E., 166.40 E. No casualties in either ship, and crews are amongst those landed on Emirau Island. (D.S. 484 amended D.S. 485).

/ Raider survivors ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.12. 1940. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Raider Survivors. My 1215Z/30 (Emirau Island survivors) Following publicity censorship restrictions Australia. No photographs of raiding vessels. No reference to existence such photographs. No mention number detailed description or mention of sea procedure or attack or details of armament or route or possible Island Bases of raider. No name of Australian Port where survivors landed or of rescue ship. Am now permitting short wave broadcasts and communication within Phonogram censorship bounds.
(A.C.N.B. 0527/31 to Admty.)

Marshall Islands, MANYO MARU. Your 1540Z/30. Political importance attached to the use of Marshall Islands appreciated.
7 survivors consisting of 3 masters, 2 chief officers, 1 chief engineer, 1 boatswain individually and then collectively examined on the subject. They differed in the opinion only as to actual Atoll Wotje or Maldelap. Their estimates of latitude and longitude of Atoll all agreed within few miles. Classification considered to be A.3 and this because although given run of decks they had no navigational instruments. It is confirmed that name MANYO MARU was painted in English with Japanese characters above on both bows and at stern. Port of registry Tokyo was painted under ship's name on stern. Further, Germans referred to ship as MANYO MARU.
(A.C.N.B., 0651Z/31 to C.O.I.S., Singapore)

Raider Aircraft. My 2000Z/29. Three raider aircraft seen closely at Emirau 21/12. Two types of reconnaissance seaplane. Type one fast single engine high wing monoplane folding wings radial engine otherwise similar D O 22. Type two small slow biplane like H E 60. Raiders (including TOKYO MARU) carry at least one aircraft each. Germans claimed aircraft over Sydney, Australia, presumably between August and October.
(A.C.N.B. 0800/31 to Admty.)

Conditions in Raiders. My 2000 Z/29. Information contained therein and in signal obtained through interrogation of selection of survivors brought to Melbourne by air. W/T information m R D/F observed in any of the raiders. In MANYO MARU and TOKYO MARU constant D/F watch maintained apparatus consisting of a rotating loop fitted above bridge. General information, except as regards quality and quantity of food, cramped space, conditions and bad ventilation, treatment of prisoners appears to have been good.
(A.C.N.B., 1026 Z/31).

/ Dutch patrols. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. (Contd.)

Dutch patrols. My 1639/1/11. Dutch authorities have now requested your permission for Dutch naval tanker and Dutch warship to visit Rabaul middle of January, 1941. Request permission may be given. (Rd. of M. 1040/31 to A.C.N.B.).

Troop Transport. Your N.C.347 of 28/12. Operation stated in first sentence will be known as "Elbow" for direct communication. C.in C. Far East and G.O.C. Malaya informed. (War Office 1330/31 to Army, Melbourne)

Composition, Brigade Group, (Army, Melbourne, to Troopers, London, 0845/31).

AUSTRALIA, Convoy duty and to join Home Fleet. I have kept in mind your request that AUSTRALIA should be joined up with one of the principal Fleets. Has not been possible to fit her with mess deck heating, and therefore best to delay her joining Home Fleet for the present. She has, however, taken part in active operations off West Africa. For above reasons I am now sending her to escort a convoy of Middle East reinforcements to Egypt via the Cape, leaving England early in January. On reaching Suez, she will be passed through the Mediterranean so as to arrive in U.K. about the middle of March, and will then join the Home Fleet.
(1st S.L. 1723/31 to 1st Naval Member, Navy Board, Melbourne).

MONOWAI A.P.3. Departure MONOWAI convoying A.P. three.
(N.O.I.C. Auckland, 21452/31).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ACHILLES — ACHILLES left here 2130/30. (Bilbao, 1658/31, to Admty., 1703/31 to Fairmiss).

ANNELIESE EJSBERGER — Left Kobe 29/12. Reported (A.2) to have loaded a large quantity of fuel oil before departure. (D.S. 484) (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0856Z/31).

NORD ATLANTIC / ANTARKTIS — B.2 report dated 30/12 states these tankers alongside one another on night of 29/12 transferring cases, and it is considered likely NORD ATLANTIC may sail soon. (D.S. 483).

FRANKFURT / PORTLAND — At Talcahuano, Chile. Reported to be loading mineral concentrates. Agent also requesting delivery of lentils. (D.S. 483). PORTLAND undocked 30/12. Both have embarked mineral concentrates. (D.S. 485).

BRITA / DAHLIA / BALTICIA / EDDA / INDUS — Swedish ships, seized during Norwegian campaign, have been confiscated by order of Hamburg Prize Court (D.S. 483).

BRAKE — In an air reconnaissance on 29/12, a tanker was identified at Cherbourg as the BRAKE, 9928 tons, which had left Vigo on 10/12 and arrived at Ferrol on 12/12 (D.S. 485).

JANTJE FRITZEN — B.2 report, has recently made 3 successive voyages from Ox Elosund to Hamburg, Bremen and Emden. (D.S. 485.).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO. — Left Barcelona 28/12 for Valencia (D.S. 483).

STELLA / XXIV MAGGIO — At Pernambuco, reported to have sold cargoes of grain which are being transhipped in Brazilian ships to Rio de Janeiro. (D.S. 483).

CERVINO / PRINCIPESSA MARIA — Reported slightly damaged in Buenos Aires Harbour through British THISTLEGORM colliding with them. (D.S. 483).

MAURO CROCE — Left for Valencia 30/12. (Barcelona, 1644/31).

/ DUCHESSA D'AOSTA ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.12.1940.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS (Contd.)

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA

Following telegram from DUCHESSA D'AOSTA to Lloyd Trieste intercepted by Bureau Military Intelligence (begins).
We confirm our latest telegram to-day's date. We are sending required papers regarding unloading and are reloading all Genoa wool not counting I H Copper. Work possible in next 30 days. Estimated expenditure 145,000 pesetas plus extra expenses for crew and petrol consumption. To-day's stock of petrol 596. DUCHESSA D'AOSTA. (Ends).
This telegram was translated from Italian into French by Duala authorities and sense of message has therefore become less clear.
(N.C.S.O. Lagos, 1800/31, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

DONAX. (British, 8036 tons) reports 58° 40' N., 17° 50' W. chased by S/M. (Valentia Radio, 1510/31) Straggler from H.X.97, homeward bound from Curacao (D.S., 484).

RISANGER (torpedoed 27/12) Norwegian, 5455 tons. BELINDA reports rescued entire crew from Norwegian S.S. RISANGER torpedoed 27/12, 12° 30' N., 21° 30' W. S/M believed being Italian very big and grey painted. Master. (Freetown W/T Recd. 2201/31) Position about 270 miles W.S.W. of Dakar. (D.S., 484).

BRITISH ZEAL. (British tanker 8532 tons). reports 15° 43'N., 20° 24' W. torpedoed (BRITISH ZEAL via Freetown W/T 2212Z/31).

3333 BRITISH ZEAL reports 15° 43'N., 20° 30' W. torpedoed 2212/31 (Colombo, via Singapore, 2346Z/31).
Admty. from (Colombo W/T). Following message incompletely received on 8450 kcs.
3333 DE (not received) R 24 West torpedoed 2211 (group omitted).
(Singapore T.O.R. 2351Z/31 to Admty.)
Position about 180 miles W.N.W. of Dakar.
Was outward bound from Liverpool for Freetown (D.S. 484).

Submarines Reported.

1030. Training A/C reports periscope about 2 miles off shore off mouth of River Spey course East. (Graded B.3) (C.in C. Rosyth, 1508/31)

1613. Attack-S/M in position 058° 41' N., 017° 50' W. at 1613 reliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1636/31 to WINCHELSEA).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 or 2 to E. or N.E. of Azores
1 about 45° - 46° N. 5° - 6° W. bound for Gironde
4 between 54° 30' N. and 56° 30' N. 14° 30'W. and 16° W.
2 more may be in same area or moving southwards for Bordeaux.

German.
1 between Freetown and Cape de Verde Islands
1 arriving Lorient today
1 within 60 miles radius of each of the following 5 points.
(a) 56° N. 12° W.
(b) 57° N. 21° 30' W.
(c) 57° 40' N. 21° 30' W.
(d) 58° 30' N. 21° W.
(e) 59° 30' N. 21° W.
1 between Shetlands and Norway bound east or south east.
(D.D.I.C. 1245/31).

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Sweep with West Scheldt

M.T.B's 31 and 30 carried out a sweep with the West Scheldt last night. M.T.B. 22 returned to Harwich when her hydraulic steering failed near Thornton Ridge. M.T.B. 30 was disabled early by shell fire, and returned to Harwich under her own power. M.T.B.3/ engaged several enemy ships and dropped depth charges very close to a merchant ship of about 3000 tons. At 0052 today German SANTOS, 5943 tons, reported that she had been torpedoed by a British M.T.B. off the mouth of the Scheldt.

Destroyer Engagement with E-Boats

Capt. D. 21 in CAMPBELL with VANESSA on patrol last night had a brief inconclusive engagement in the North Sea with 2 enemy E-Boats which they chased.

Demand for Torpedo carrying aircraft

C. in C., W.A. asks for a striking force of F.A.A. torpedo carrying aircraft to be placed at his disposal for use against enemy destroyers in operations such as the latter have carried out in the Western Channel during the past week.

FAME

FAME was refloated today and was towed to Sunderland.

HASTINGS

HASTINGS was damaged in collision today.

SAGUENAY Torpedoed

SAGUENAY with convoy H.G. 47 was torpedoed early this morning in the N.W. Approaches and is proceeding to St. Helens.

British Air Activity

No operations were carried out by Bomber Command today, on account of the weather.

Attacks

Blenheims of Coastal Command dropped bombs on the submarine base and naval docks at Lorient. Beauforts successfully bombed Brest; the power station, a jetty and dry docks were hit.

/A Beaufort.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Attacks-Contd.

A Beaufort on patrol off the Frisian Is. unsuccessfully attacked a 7000 ton merchant vessel.

Merchant vessels in Kristiansand Harbour were also attacked; hits were obtained on sheds on the quayside.

A gas works at Esbierg was bombed and direct hits obtained, resulting in explosion and fire.

Patrols

New standard patrols were flown this morning, covering the coast of Norway southwards from Stadlandet and continuing to Horn's Reef. An offensive patrol was flown in the Bight and along the Frisian Islands to Terschelling.

Owing to the weather, patrols and convoy escorts in the N.W. Approaches were re-called during the forenoon.

Hatston

The two squadrons of Swordfish at Hatston are to be disbanded. C. in C., H.F. reports that after this is done, there will remain no naval aircraft except about 4 Walrus to seek out and destroy U-Boats near the main Fleet Base or on passage to and from the Atlantic. The Air striking force to attack enemy warships and shipping is reduced to 6 Skuas. He is informed that the operational strength of the Torpedo Bomber Squadron at Wick today was 3 Beauforts. In view of this and the probability that the enemy will endeavour to pass raiders through the Norwegian Fiords during the coming weeks, C. in C., H.F., asks that the 2 Squadrons not now required for FURIOUS may be sent to Hatston.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS CETVRTI (Yugoslav) was bombed about 80 miles S.W. of Ireland today and is reported to have sunk later.

SS ASTRAL (U.S.A. 7542 tons) was damaged today by a near miss.

Attack on Southampton

Southampton was heavily attacked, commencing at 1845 yesterday. Considerable damage was caused in the city where there was a shortage of water for fire fighting. Minor damage was done in the docks area. H.M.S. HOBURG was slightly damaged and two Dutch schuyts and a coal barge were damaged, as also were Harland and Wolff'S extension yards.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was suspected between 1800 and midnight in the Bristol Channel.

MAORI exploded a mine in the Firth of Forth but was not damaged. A mine was detonated off Milford Haven.

Tyne

Two ships were mined off the Tyne today SS OSLO FIORD and tanker BRITISH OFFICER both were beached. The Tyne was closed at 1325.

Plymouth is closed. Liverpool was closed at 1420 and reopened with restrictions at 1630.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Either yesterday or today CARNARVON CASTLE intercepted the Brazilian SS ITAPE near Rio de Janeiro and removed 22 German Merchant Navy Officers and men.

Mediterranean

A message received today from R.A. (A) Med. says that during the 12 weeks to 25/11 ILLUSTRIOUS fighters have shot down for certain 21 enemy aircraft in the Mediterranean.

America & West Indies

Search for IDARWALD and RHEIN

VAN KINSBERGEN (Netherlands Gunnery Training Ship) left Nassau and CARADOC left Bermuda today, to patrol Florida Straits. DIOMEDE left Trinidad after fuelling, for Kingston, Jamaica. PRINCE ROBERT left yesterday for patrol off Callao. Aircraft left Curacao yesterday morning for Jamaica to search.

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Torpedo-carrying Aircraft for W.A.

The operations of enemy destroyers in the Western Channel last week have called attention to necessity of a striking force of torpedo-carrying A/C being at my immediate disposal.
When enemy destroyers are located, chances of intercepting and successfully bringing them to action on a dark night are small They may often return to Brest after dawn, but surface forces cannot safely be used to intercept them off Brest in daylight due to danger of air attack.
Enemy destroyers are faster than J's and K's Torpedo-carrying A/C would often have an excellent chance of cutting them off.
The great importance of being able to distinguish between British and German destroyers in poor light makes it most desirable that a F.A.A. unit should be used. (C. in C., W.A. 2010/1 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Deluge

At 1130/1 (D.C. 1148/1) at 2330/1 (D.C. 2335/1)

Defence of Fleet Anchorage against Torpedo-bomber attack.

Reply to Admty 2323/29 (A.C.O.S. 1300/1) See Operations Volume.

Decoy Sites at Plymouth

Re. (C. in C., W.A. 1123/1)

Movements

VAN OOST

My 0845/30 (Sailing of A/S trawlers for Reykjavik) Name VAN OOST (H.M.S. WESTERN ISLES 0855/1)

A/S Trawler Search

A/S Trawler earching to Holyhead, Mimbles Head Rame Head (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1035/1)

SOMALI
MASHONA
BEAGLE
BULLDOG

My 0957/30. Will provide A/S screen. (C. in C., H.F. 1055/1 amended by 1623/1 to C. in C., Rosyth)

/MOOLTAN.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

MOOLTAN — N.O.I.C. Belfast 1056/29/11 re movements. Request further instructions (F.O.C.N.P. 1100/1 to C.in C. S.A.) F.O.I.C. Belfast 1056/29. Will not be proceeding on service as A.M.C. Fuel, ammunition etc., should not be embarked at Greenock. (D.O.D. (F), 1259/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

CHARLESTON — Request be informed when CHARLESTON will be sailed for Port ZA (R.A.M.L. 1129/1 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

Nore. — Movements to 1200/2 (C.in C. Nore 1200/1 amended recd. 1300/1).

JUPITER — Sailed 1056/1. (C.in C. W.A. 1212/1)

BOUCLIER, AMIENS — Admty. 1618/14/11. Intend sail BOUCLIER escorting AMIENS e.t.d. Needles 1715, e.t.a. Dartmouth 0815, route. Request you take BOUCLIER under your command on arrival (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1247/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

MAORI. — Owing mines off Tyne, return Rosyth (C.in C. Rosyth 1322/1.)

Dover. — Disposition night 1/2/12. (V.A.Dover 1416/1).

Portsmouth — Night movements (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1533/1).

TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT — My 1212/1. Sailing delayed until 0045/3. C.in C. W.A. requested make other arrangements for escort of TALISMAN. (S.2. 1601/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Western Approaches. — Western Channel night report. (C.in C. W.A. 1600/1).

Operations.

Destroyers patrol in North Sea. M.T.B's off Belgian Coast. — Harwich 1/12 arrivals CAMPBELL and VANESSA M.T.B's, 22, and 31 at 0904. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0909/1).

Destroyer patrol in North Sea. — Following received from D 21 at 2050/30 VANESSA and CAMPBELL in position one mile south of 54 F buoy steering 020° at 12 knots sighted two 'E' boats 2 miles ahead in swept channel steering similar course at slow speed. On increasing enemy made off at high speed to E.N.E. making smoke.

/ Star illumination ...

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Destroyer patrol in North Sea. (contd.)

Star illumination not very effective owing to smoke screens and haze but enemy was engaged during brief sightings.
Chase was continued at full speed with an occasional sighting through smoke until touch was lost 10 miles to the east of swept channel.
Sweep towards Smiths Knoll and back to No. 5 NX buoy produced no result patrol then resumed.
RD/F failed to detect until after sighting and lost contact immediately range increased.
High explosive on "E" boat increasing speed was distinctly heard. One very bright white magnesium flare fired by aircraft overhead during chase fell within 3 cables of CAMPBELL. White flashing light from aircraft was then observed to the eastward. Conditions were ideal for 'E' boat operations except that their engines could be easily heard on acceleration due to stillness of the night. 1130/1.
(C.in C. Nore 1434/1).

M.T.B's off Belgian coast.

Hydraulic steering failed in M.T.B.22 near Thornton Ridge. M.T.B.31 detached with M.T.B.30 to carry out sweep into West Schelde while M.T.B.22 returned. About 0030 about six ships were seen in approximate position 51° 28' N. 30° 10' E. apparently stopped and in a line 150°. Enemy probably sighted at same time and challenged soon after with red and green two star cartridge.
M.T.B. 31 closed to attack ship at south end of line who challenged torpedo seen to run under and target opened heavy fire as also some other ships not previously sighted. Also searchlights were burnt. The other torpedo was fired at next in line but had faulty discharge. M.T.B. 31 then went to north end of line and in 2 runs dropped 2 depth charges very close abreast a merchant ship of about 3000 tons. M.T.B.30 following was hit early and had hydraulic steering throttles and turret supply shot away and both officers and coxswain wounded. M.T.B.30 being unable to continue action returned to Harwich using jury steering.
M.T.B.31 remained in vicinity to find and assist M.T.B.30 until a signal from latter was received when she returned to Harwich. Visibility good throughout. 1149.
(C.in C. Nore, 1305/1.)

Cover for ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Cover for Operation G.9.1.

Own destroyers will be carrying a sweep from Bishop Rock Light southwards along Meridian 006°W. tonight 1/2 December covering ADVENTURE operating near 048° 15' N. 009° 30' W. (V.A.(S) 1049/1 to Submarines Area P).

Submarines.

SEALION

Leave patrol 1800/3 routed 060° 36'N., 002° 44'E. 066° 37' N., 00° 46' E. and Gap A. Report when west of 002° 40' E. (Capt. S.6. 0955/1 to SEALION).

TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT

Intend sail TRIBUNE and THUNDERBOLT escorted by 1 Yacht from Clyde 0845/2 for position 270° Bishop Rock 10 miles. TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT thence to patrol. Escort to meet TALISMAN at 0900/4 in vicinity Lands End and escort her to Holy Loch. (S.2. 1212/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Positions and Movements.

For following 24 hours at 0800/2. (V.A.S. 1819/1).

CACHALOT

Admty. 1228/29/11 and 1633/1/12 CACHALOT to be sailed 3/12 escorted to vicinity Lands End (route) to patrol off Ponta Delgada in accordance with M.022797/40 of 30/11. (V.A.S. 2124/1).

British Air Activity.

Nore.

No air recco. during night. (C.in C. Nore, 0807/1).

A/S Patrols.

In vicinity St. Kilda and N. Rona returned to base, owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1010/1).

Air Recco.

With view to Naval action being taken against shipping following reconnaissances will be flown 2/12. (1) In area between 62°N. and 62° 20'N. and 04° 50'E. and 05°40'E. with special reference to Sund anchorage and Vanelo Gabel noting which direction ships are lying at anchor also routes taken by shipping round Statlandet. (2) In vicinity Kolbeinsfu Buoy 62°58'N., 06°53'E. noting routes taken by shipping. (C.in C. Rosyth 1528/1).

/ Air Patrols .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Air Patrols. 2 routine A/S patrols (200 Group 1710/1 to Air Min.)

Air Searches. Norwegian Coast, Stavanger (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle, 1730/1 to Wick).

Coldaran S.A.2. S.A.3. My 2244/30 Patrols ordered for 2/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 1824/1).

Patrols St. Kilda, Rona. St. Kilda patrol not be flown 2/12 or 3/12. Two sorties of Rona patrol being flown in lieu. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1868/1).

Terschelling. 1312 observed 1 M/V, 7000 tons, and 1 M/V 3000 tons in position M.F.G.P. 5949 course 270°. Attacked former at range at 400 yards, torpedo dived to bottom. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1912/1 to H.Q.C.C.)

821 and 823 Squadrons Disbandment and Re-allocation. Effect of your 1529/30/11 is that with exception of about four Walrus which must be withdrawn to their parent ships periodically no naval aircraft remain in Orkneys and Shetlands to seek out and destroy U Boats in the vicinity of main Fleet Base or on passage to and from the Atlantic. Also the air striking force to attack enemy warships and shipping is reduced to six Skuas. I am informed that the operational strength on No. 42 Torpedo Bomber Squadron at Wick on 30/11 was 3 Beauforts.

Suggested use of 816 and 825 Squadrons. In view of above and of probability that enemy will endeavour to pass Merchant Shipping, raiders and warships through the Norwegian Fiords during coming weeks requested that No. 816 and 825 Squadrons not now required for FURIOUS may be sent to Hatston as soon as possible.
Also that when these two Squadrons have to re embark in FURIOUS after her refit endeavour be made to provide aircraft to operate from Hatston as A/S and striking forces and that these aircraft should be modern ones. (C.in C. H.F. 0942/1).

Enemy Air Activity.

CETVRTI. Bombed 51° 30' N., 11°52' W. (Valentia Radio 0957/1.) and (Lyness, 1057/1) Arrived Valentia in tow (D.S.No.4590/7/12).

ASTRAL. Damaged by near miss, requires docking. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/1 to C.in C. Nore)

Norwegian Coast. At least 6 German A/C active this morning off Norwegian Coast, vicinity Bergen. A/C from 3 squadrons identified. (D.D.I.C. 1207/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

/ Southampton attacked ..

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Southampton attacked.

Concentrated attack on Southampton starting 1845/30, following report received. Begins -
Heavy and indiscriminate bombing by H.E. and incendiaries has resulted in very large fires in the city, Woolston and Dock Area.
Fires not under control owing lack water. Situation Southampton Docks. Management report the whole has been or is ablaze practically. 3 small ships and some lighters on fire. Also a great many sheds. Also Harland and Wolff extension yards.
Thorneycrofts completely gutted by fire.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1042/1 to Admiralty).

In severe air raid on night of 30/11 about 12 incendiary bombs fell within buildings of Naval Store depot Woolston, but were extinguished with negligible damage to stores and fittings. Storehouses K and O in old docks are undamaged and Naval stores appear intact.
(N.S.O. Woolston 1200/1 to D. of D.)

Woolston.

Reports indicate that area Naval Store Office is intact although building was damaged by fire in air raid of 30/11. Staff are safe. Area Naval Store Depot intact. (N.S.O.I.C. Woolston 1245/1, D. of S. Admty.)

Fuel tanks at Turnchapel.

My 1701/29. Position at 0935/1.
The five tanks that contained oil will be a total loss. The 6th tank containing water is standing and still holding water.
(C.in C. W.A. 1121/1 to Admiralty.)

Mining.

Plymouth.

Port is closed, mines (C.in C. W.A. 0624/1).

OSLO FIORD

Mined 220° ½ mile T.2. Buoy. Sinking. VIMY, tugs and lifeboat standing by.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0855/1).

ICARUS

Your 2257/30. Arrived (N.O.I.C. Portsmouth, 0935/1).

11th M.S. Flotilla.

Ops. carried out 29/30/11. 6 Mark XX exploded in sweeps 6 Mark XIV cut, S. end field. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1151/1).

/ Operation G.Q.1. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Operation O.Q.1. Sailed 1055 JUPITER (C.in C. W.A. 1212/1). Sailed ADVENTURE for Op. O.Q.1. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1241/1). JACKAL (defects) proceeded 0800 from patrol to Immingham e.t.a. 0900/4/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1422/1).

BRITISH OFFICER Struck mine 0700 N. Tyne Pier Light 4.5 cables. Being towed into harbour. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1301/1).

Tyne. Closed, minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1325/1) Closed, minelaying, ships for Tyne to Sunderland. (C.in C. Rosyth 1429/1).

Liverpool. Port closed, suspected minelaying by enemy A/C. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1420/1) Port open. Anchorage forbidden S. line joining Bar L.V. to B.1 Pillar Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/1).

MAORI. Firth of Forth. 1 mine exploded 56°03' 12"N., 03°01'30"W. while MAORI passing No.7 Reflector Buoy in Q.Z.3.175. Ship undamaged. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1601/1).

Hayle. Mine 1415/1/12, 50°44'26"N., 4°59'30"W., spherical, horns red or rusty. (Custom Hayle, 2100/1).

Future Operations. R.A.M.L. 1451/30. Proposals A. and B. concurred in provided that C.in C. H.F. can cover operations.
Proposals for subsequent operations generally concurred in. Not expected that Mark XIX mines for the forty series will be available before S.N.7, 8 and 9 have been laid.
Anti-aircraft escort will be required for operations S.N.15 and 16 in East Coast Mine Barrier. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1234/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

Enemy mines on Swedish Coast. Information (A.1) indicates that, in addition to standard contact types, mines of following characteristics have been laid by enemy and washed up on Swedish West Coast (details).
(D.N.I. 1642/1 to C.in C. Med.)

Milford Haven. Mine detonated 197° Great Castle Head low light one mile (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2222/1).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unidentified ships. Following have not been identified (details). (A.C.O.S., 1211/1 to Admty.)

Brest. Warships in harbour at 1145/1. (P.I.U. St. Eval 1540/1 to H.Q.C.C.).

E. Boat. 1 unknown War motor boat distance unknown course 110° bearing 040° from Hartland Point 1 mile. (NIGHANTE, 1706/1).

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

JACKAL. Defective. Sailing Immigan northabout for vicinity Wolfe Rock 0800/1. (C.in C. W.A. 0342/1).

HASTINGS. Been in collision with LIMESLADE, 056° 50' N., 001° 57' W. Considerable damage, D.G. out of action. Returning Rosyth LIMESLADE proceeding Aberdeen (HASTINGS, 0730/1 to C.in C. Rosyth) Was in collision 1/12 with LIMESLADE, consider her to blame. Considerable damage to HASTINGS. (HASTINGS, 2030/1 to Admty.)

OSLO FJORD Beached 55'00°N., 1°24'W. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1130/1).

CITY OF HEREFORD. In convoy W.N.46 for Methil and London arrived Methil a.m. 1/12 damaged. Was in collision with ST. LOMAN escorting E.N.34 about 0330/1 between Bell Rock and May Island. ST. LOMAN arrived Aberdeen under own steam, 1100/1/12. (C.in C. Rosyth).

FAME. Refloated, being towed to Sunderland. (F.O.I.C. Tyne to C. in C. Rosyth, 2047/1)

COVENTRY CITY. Still delayed by faulty D.G. Proposed she remains her for next C.E. Convoy. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/1 to C.in C. Nore). Delayed by faulty D.G. (C.in C. Nore, 2031/1 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Rosyth. Arrivals and departures 1/12. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2037/1).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions, N. Atlantic Convoys, 0900/1. (D.T.D., 1128/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

H.G.47. VANSITTART to join. Position. VETERAN to join as soon as relieved by escort from Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A. 0811/1 amended 1014/1).

S.L.55. / H.G.47. My 0811/1. 2 destroyers from S.L.55 to join H.G.47 forthwith. VETERAN, VANSITTART join S.L.55. (C.in C. W.A., 1110/1) My 1110/1. Object is to reinforce H.G.47 before dark. Positions (C.in C. W.A., 1132/1, 1424/1). Your 1110/1. ANTHONY and ACHATES detached at 1230 to join H.G.47. Position and weather. (ANTHONY 1700/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N. 34. / W.N. 47. E.N.34, ANGLE and ST. LOMAN, additional escort HASTINGS (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0030/1) WOLFHOUND as additional escort. (Capt.D. Rosyth, 0923(1) Fighter escort for E.N. 34. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1030/1) Route. (C.in C. Rosyth 2357/1).

O.B.251. Disperse after dark tonight. (C.in C. W.A., 1058/1, to FOLKESTONE, etc.).

O.B.252. Route to keep clear of S.L.55. (C.in C. W.A., to WELLINGTON, etc. 1218/1).

Londonderry departure SABRE, SCIMITAR, SHIKARI, CLARKIA, HELIOTROPE, ST.ELSTON, WELLARD for O.B. 252. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1201/1).

E.N.35. / W.N.48. FOWEY as additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1101/1).

H.G.47 B. After passing 08.00 W., to form 2 columns for passing through North Channel. (C.in C. W.A., 1148/1, to ROCHESTER).

F.N.47. Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne in F.N.47 to be diverted to Sunderland. (C.in C. Rosyth 1430/1, to LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON).

F.S.48. A/S trawler GREENFLY left Humber to join. (F.O. Humber, 1448/1) GOSSAMER left to join F.S.48. (F.O. Humber 1617/1).

/ H.X. 89. ....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

H.X.89. Arrived FLEUR DE LYS, WILD SWAN, etc., escorting H.X.89. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1501/1).

S.L.57. U-boat Report (See S/M's Reported).

B.H.X.93. Departure, Ocean escort MALOJA, returning to Halifax. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1143/1).

Troop Convoys.

BERGENSFJORD. Your 1034 BERGENSFJORD will sail as soon as possible in accordance with Admty. 2018/23. 200 troops will embark provided this will not delay sailing. Every effort being made to expedite departure which is primary consideration.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1622/1, to D. of S.T.)

W.S.4 B. My 2211/15 para. 3.
(c) Amend to read. Durban to Aden - SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE until DEVONSHIRE is relieved by SOUTHAMPTON (date). When relieved DEVONSHIRE is to return to U.K.
(D.O.D.(F) 2151/1 to C.in C's E.A., E.I., and Med.)

Icelandic Trawler. Icelandic trawler JOKULL (? RESS) arrived Reykjavik 0420/1. Chart examined on arrival showed trawler passed 25 miles west of St. Kilda. Seals on W/T room broken. Master admits disobeying routeing instructions and taking shortest route to Reykjavik. Request I may be informed condition of seal on leaving Fleetwood as master ascribes break to fair wear and tear. Investigation proceeding.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1200/1).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

VILLE DE ROUEN — Reported will sail from Reunion 5/12 or 6/12 direct for France. (D.D.I.C. 1723/1)

DUNKERQUE — ELI's Consul at Casablanca informed by a French Officer that latter "thought" DUNKERQUE had been towed from Oran to Toulon between 19/11 and 21/11. This does not tally with information supplied in my 1815/25, but presume it is possible that even if not "ready for sea" in general sense she might be towed across Mediterranean. (Consul-Gen, Tangier 1115/1 to Admty.)

(Note by D.N.I.:- 1815/25/11, ELI reports that at least 4 or 5 months will be required before DUNKERQUE can be made ready for sea.

U-Boats Request for A/C Reconnaissance — Following from Brazaville (begins) Colonel Parlent in report dated 29/11 from Libreville reports presence of submarine(s) off the estuary and has asked H.Q. here for planes for sea reconnaissance No aircraft available here capable of undertaking this task. H.Q. sending position of aircraft available which is only capable of doing very short range reconnaissance. (C. in C., S.A. 2311N/1, to I.C.S.)

North Atlantic

ARGUS — Admty. 0210/30 and my 2226/29. Enquiries completed. ARGUS ready to sail when ordered. (F.O.C.N.A. 0950/1)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Admty. 1224/30. Will be sailed for Halifax p.m./1 (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/1)

Sails 1830/1, escorted by KELVIN and JAGUAR. Route (F.O.C.N.A., 1740/1) E.T.A. Freetown (F.O.C.N.A. 1832/1)

DESPATCH — Delayed with defective 6 inch gun. Probably ready 4/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/1)

/FIREDRAKE.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

FIREDRAKE VELOX ARCTIC RANGER	Order for patrol (.F.O.C.N.A., 2002/1)
BERWICK	Admty. 1337/30. Damage in vicinity of explosion of 2 shells extensive. Repairs to make ship fit for service, excluding Y turret, cannot be undertaken with present resources of this yard. (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/1) Your 1746/1. Necessity for hunting down raiders so urgent and shortage of cruisers so acute that we must work to an entirely different standard to that we have been used to. On assumption Gibraltar will do everything possible and that all possible assistance is obtained from the Fleet, report in what vital matters BERWICK's fighting efficiency will be defective on 16/12. Repairs to BERWICK are to be commenced forthwith. (1st S.L., to F.O.C.N.A., 2332/1)
NEWCASTLE	Your 1841/20. Consider that further isolated perforating may occur in near future but intend sailing NEWCASTLE in accordance with Admty. 0036/25 p.m. today 1/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1246/1 to Admty) Sails 1830/1 for Freetown. Route and E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1740/1, 1830/1)

South Atlantic

HAWKINS CUMBERLAND ENTERPRISE	On relief of HAWKINS at dawn 4/12 in position 004° 00' S., 005° 12' W., CUMBERLAND is to proceed towards position 037° 00' S., 053° 00' W., at speed of advance 18 knots to rendezvous with ENTERPRISE as ordered by R.A.S.A.D. (C. in C., S.A. 0951/1 to CUMBERLAND)
BARON CAWDOR	My 1035/30. (Overdue shipping) BARON CAWDOR arrived (S.O.I. Capetown, 0955/1)

/CARNARVON CASTLE...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE — Your 1537/Z/25 CARNARVON CASTLE visit to Rio de Janeiro, Approved. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1130/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOOLTAN — N.O.i/c Belfast 1056/29. Request action that is being taken with reference to your 1913/21 which states MOOLTAN will require 4 months refit to make ship serviceable. (1335/N/1.)

W.S. 5 A. — Estimates fresh water requirement of W.S. 5A at Freetown is between 5000 and 6000 tons.
A 14000 ton water tanker will be included in convoy if this will assist provision of water for this convoy.
Early reply requested in order that vessel may be prepared. (D.O.D. (F) 1941/1 to C. in C., S.A.)

W.S. 4 B. — W.S. 4 B., Ocean escort DEVONSHIRE, CUMBERLAND, sailed Freetown 1700/1 for Durban by direct route E.T.A.

HAWKINS relieves CUMBERLAND dawn 4/12 in position 004° 00' S., 005° 12' W., CUMBERLAND then proceeds in accordance with my 0951/1.
HAWKINS is being detached before arrival at Simonstown to refuel and rejoin convoy before passing meridian 21° East.
(C. in C., S.A. 2011N/1)

Raider Positions — Indications of enemy surface vessels on dates given are passed to you for information in case you have no received them previously. 24/11 in th vicinity of position 020° N., 055° W., 17/11 some indication near Canary Islands. Other indications are that there were 2 raiders on East Indies Station on 25/11. (C. in C., S.A. 2045N/1 to Cdre. S.A. Div.)

FURIOUS
DIDO
RESOLUTION — Admty. 1531/25 C. in C., W.A. 2138/27 and my 1231/28 DIDO has engine defects which will not be completed until p.m./3. Intend FURIOUS and DIDO shall sail then or a.m./4 Date of RESOLUTION sailing will be delayed accordingly. (C. in C., S.A. 2047/1 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air Intelligence-Italy

Following from Air Attache for Air Ministry X. 309 1st Dec. Intelligence Summary 108.

Italy. Extracts from report written by M. 3. personal friend of Air Attache on 26/11.

a. Every available Italian civil transport aircraft is being used for transporting troops to Albania.

h. If British can spare a few more Spitfires and Hurricanes for Albania and Africa, Italians will receive a bad air beating.

j. Great effect obtained by even a single aircraft over Italy. The mentality of the Italian civilians is such that they go nearly crazy during the alerts.

The effect of bombing Rome would be terrific. Town itself should not be bombed but there are suitable targets on the outskirts of the capital.
(Mr. Kelly, Berne, 1125/1 to F.O.)

SOUTHAMPTON

SOUTHAMPTON will arrive Suez p.m/3/12 to act under your orders. (C. in C., Med., 1335/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

MANCHESTER

Intend MANCHESTER to leave Malta about 1600/4 following satisfactory air reconnaissance. Ship passes South of Skerki Bank to be near 037° 40' N., 006° 30' W., by 0800B/5. (C. in C., Med., 1341/1 to S.O.Force H.)

Cables

Admty 1657/29/11. Master of MIRROR states that a minimum of two and a half days working continuously and with fine weather would be required to complete operation. Continuous cover and close and substantial A/A and A/S escort would be required. Unless the matter is of extreme importance it does not appear to justify the risks and effort involved. (S.O.Force H., 1629/1 to C. in C., Med.,)

/Air.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd

Air Reconnaissance

1/12. 4 merchant ships (with steam up) approximately 3,000 tons, near entrance Tobruk Harbour. 3 small merchant ships approximately 1,000 tons, 10 miles off shore from Ras Venn. One ship 2,000 tons close to shore near Ras. Not (corrupt group) seen Tobruk Bardia Roads. (202 Group, H.Q., 1645/1 to H.Q., M.E.)

Greece

Operational Summary No. 18. No naval items (H.Q., B.A.F., Greece, 1715/1)

Air Report

Combined services report- Malta up to 1700 hours G.M.T. 1/12. All air operations cancelled due to weather. No enemy air activity over Malta. No military or naval items. (H.Q., R.A.F., Med. 1700/1)

Operational Summary No 174 to 1200/1. No naval items. (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E. 1131/1)

East Indies

SOUTHAMPTON

C. in C., Mediterranean's 1335/1 (SOUTHAMPTON will arrive Suez p.m/3) Request you sail SOUTHAMPTON to Aden with all convenient despatch as soon as practicable after arrival Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 06422/1 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal area)

LUXMI "Q" Signal

British ship LUXMI when in position 011° 44' S.,043° 58' E., heard the auto alarm signal followed by QQQQ -QQ. interupted, continuous wave transmission. Commercial strength 4. Same relative strength as Mombasa Radio. (C. in C., E.A. 0706/1)

LUXMI in position 011° 44' S., 043° 58' E., report ar 0405/1 having heard auto alarm followed by QQQ at 1919 G.M.T. 30/11. Signal strength Q S A 4 ame strength as Mombasa V P Q. Transmitter interrupted continuous wave. (N.O.I.C.Simonstown, 0807/1)

My 0706/1. QQQQ transmission was at 1919 G.M.T./30 on 500 kc/s. East Indies coast wireless station heard nothing. (C. in C., E.I., 1014/1, to Capt O.S., Singapore, etc.,)

Your 0706/1. Request time date and frequency of signal. (D.D.I.C. 1027/1)

/Disposition....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies
~~Mediterranean~~-Contd.

Dispositions

My 0706/1. (1) Following are present dispositions in Mozambique channel and approaches.
(a) SHROPSHIRE in position 005° 15' S., 045° 06' E., at 1200Z/1 proceeding with Convoy S.W. 3. to Durban due p.m./5.
(b) CARTHAGE proceeding until 0900Z/2 towards position 020° S., 040° E., from Southward and then towards Durban.
(c) COLOMBO arriving position 011° S., 045° W., about 0001Z/2 and then patrol.
(d) CERES from Kismayu patrol to Mombasa for fuel and giving cover to ORONTES detached from S.W. 3 and 1500Z/1 for Mombasa. (C. in C., E.I., 1542/1)

Convoy W.S. 4.

Your 1154/30, paras 2 and 6. It would be preferred that escort in the Red Sea should be provided by ships of the Red Sea Force as in para 4 of Admty. 2211/15 and 2219/26 in order to free the large cruisers for anti-raider patrol or other offensive operations.
In particular it is important CORNWALL's refit should not be delayed. (D.O.D. (F) 1211/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

American Ships

Your 1844/11. In view of C. in C., A.&.W.I. 1336/13 present arrangements should remain in force.
In addition to security aspect it is suggested that information obtained from pilotage service at ports would be more up-to-date. (Head of M. 1327/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

CITY OF DUNDEE Raider Report (false)

Following has been read:- Important, Armed Raider, 13° 46' N., 53° 53' E., CITY OF DUNDEE ordered to heave to by suspicious vessel. (CITY OF DUNDEE 1417Z/1) (D.D.I.C., 1651/1)
Your 1651/1. Suspicious vessel was HECTOR, A.M.C. (C. in C., E.I., 1656Z/1)
Your 1651/1. Request similar message may in future be addressed only to me and shore Authorities concerned in order that operational W/T lines to ships can be kept clear. Actually in this case I had received confirmation that the suspicious vessel was HECTOR before Admty 1651/1/12 was originated and therefore no difficulty arose. (C. in C., E.I., 1820/1)

/CORNWALLIS....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

CORNWALLIS
INVESTIGATOR

Your 0436/16. (re exchange) approved (Md. of M., to C. in C., E.I. 1713/1)

Assab Reconnaissance

Summary No 172 for 24 hours ending 1500/1/12. 0600 to 0735 1 Glen Martin French Flight photographic R.C.. southern Eritrean Coast No changes Assab Harbour. Low level visual reconnaissance did not confirm boom defence thought to be seen by bombing aircraft on 28/11. All times G.M.T. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1839/1)

W.S. 4 B
SOUTHAMPTON

Your 1146/30. Concur. SOUTHAMPTON should be sailed so as to meet convoy as far south as possible with sufficient margin of fuel. (D.O.D.(F) 2152/1 ro C. in C., E.I.)

China

Japanese Policy

British Embassy Shanghai No 47 to F.O. Fully concur we should start taking what legal retaliatory action we can by strictly enforcing every restriction and regulation in all British ports. (C. in C., China, to Admty 0531Z/1)

Situation in Indo-China

(C. in C., China 0851Z/1)

America & West Indies

BERGENSFJORD

Your 1921/22 and 1748/28. BERGENSFJORD very urgently required for troop convoy from U.K. (date and capacity) Request further endeavour to persuade crew to sail. Repairs and equipment. (D.S.T. 1034/1 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

PORPOISE
(Sailing U.K. to Halifax, N.S.)

Capt (S) 2's 2302/27/11. Reqiest you will pass necessry information regarding movements of North Atlantic Escort Force to PORPOISE, and warn ships of North Atlantic Escort Force of PORPOISE movements (C. in C., A.W.I., 1052/1 to F.O.C. 3 B.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

NOTOU

Probable that French NOTOU, 2489 tons, which left Newcastle, N.S.W., on 12/8 bound for Noumea, New Caledonia, was sunk by an enemy raider in Pacific. No details are available (D.S. 453, 1/12)

New Zealand

ACHILLES

Departure Aukland 0230Z/1 ACHILLES for rendezvous vicinity of Three Kings with AORANGI escorted by ADELAIDE. (S.O.I. Wellington, 0352Z/1)

MOST SECRET.

1.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TRAUTENFELS. 6418 tons. Due to arrive at Leningrad on 1/12. (This confirms that larger ships are being used now in Baltic trade). (D.S. 453, 1/12).

SANTOS. 5943 tons. Made a P/L message at 0052/1 she had been attacked and torpedoed by a British M.T.B. at the mouth of the Scheldt. (D.S. 453, 1/12).

SPEZIA. Is being sent with 1600 tons cargo, probably fruit, from Barcelona to Marseilles and Port de Boue and thence to Genoa. (D.S., 453, 1/12).

HAMELN At Vera Cruz. Report to have ordered supplies for 30 days but had not commenced to take in fuel oil on 28/11. (D.S. 453, 1/12).

KLAUS SCHOKE My 1022/30 KLAUS SCHOKE refloated undamaged. Expected to sail 2100 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1027/1, to Admty. and S.O.I., Gib.)

My 1821/30. Following from British Consulate at Ponta Delgada: German KLAUS-SCHOKE expected to sail 2100 G.M.T. tonight 1/12 1027. (F.O.C.N.A. 1648/1).

My 1027/1. KLAUS SCHOKE sailed 2205 G.M.T. Course taken not visible. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 2017/1).

ITHAKA
ARKADIA German ships ITHAKA ARKADIA arrived from Russia 29/11. (Macrae, Galatz, 1147/30).

PORTLAND. Callao reports PORTLAND sailed 0130 G.M.T. 1/12. PRINCE ROBERT informed. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1308/1, to C.in C. A.W.I., etc.).

IDARWALD
RHEIN N.A. Washington reports IDARWALD in 020° 25' N. 096° 20' W. at 1315 zone plus 5, 30/11 course 072°, 6 knots, RHEIN 40 miles southward.
Cancel R.V. in my 1202/30. Proceed at 15 knots to arrive 023° 00' N. 088° 00' W. by 1200 zone plus 5, 3/12. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1021/1, to VAN KINSBERGEN).

Tampico reports IDARWALD passed Vera Cruz steaming south afternoon 30/11 (B.2). (S.O.I. Kingston, 1717/1, to Admty., C.in C. A.W.I., etc.)

/ HERMONTHIS ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

HERMONTHIS

If German ship HERMONTHIS sails before you arrive off Callao carry out an independent custody search as in O.U. 5415/39 page 40 assuming enemy speed twelve knots.
Sector between 323° and 270° should receive priority attention. Callao pass via Lima wireless station to PRINCE ROBERT. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1851/1, to PRINCE ROBERT).

LECH KARNAK

My 1845/22 and 1642/27 LECH KARNAK German left here about 2200/30 destination unknown.
(Bilbao, 1235/1 to Admty.)
(V.A.S., to S/M's on Patrol Area B, 2229/1) Passed to S.O.(I) Gib. (H.W.R. 1719/2).

FRANKFURT.

My report of fuel stock 1/11.
German ship FRANKFURT received additional supply of 504 tons of coal at Talcahuano 30/11. (S.O.I., Callao, 1810/1, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANTONIETTA COSTA	5900 tons)	Reported among 9 Italian vessels recently sunk at Otranto. Only confirmation is that first-named sent out an S.O.S. on 10/10. (D.S. 453).
CATALANI	2429 tons)	
NUMIDIA	5339 tons)	
SANANDREA (tanker)	5077 tons)	

ATLAS

Tanker, moved to an anchorage in the steam alongside ORINOCO at Tampico on 27/11. (D.S. 453).

DERNA.

Departure 30/11 VILLA DE MADRID (Spanish) and DERNA for Las Palmas, latter believed bound for Valencia.
(Barcelona, 1825/1, to M. of Shipping).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SAGUENAY

Your 0454/1. (Asking ship to pass this to Admiralty) Following intercepted message. Whitehall W/T from SAGUENAY, have been struck by torpedo on starboard hand, (side) 054° 40' N., 015° 50' W., time of origin 0404 (ends) (ROCHESTER 0545/1 to Admty.)

Proceed with despatch to assistance of SAGUENAY reported in position 54° 40' N., 015° 50' W., at 0404. today Sunday. SALVONIA is also proceeding to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0800/1 to ENGLISHMAN)

SAGUENAY proceeding stern first HIGHLANDER screening. Send tugs and escort. 54.10 N., 16.47 W., (Weather) HIGHLANDER 0840/1 to Admty & C. in C., W.A.)

Sailed HUNAN to assistance of SAGUENAY (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0900/1)

Sailed SALVONIA to assistance of SAGUENAY (F.O.I.C.,Greenock 0900/1)

Tugs ENGLISHMAN and SALVONIA have been sailed to your assistance both ships keep constant W/T watch on 500 K/Cs. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0902/1 to SAGUENAY)

Amended position of SAGUENAY who is proceeding stern first screened by HIGHLANDER was 54° 10' N., 16° 47' W., at 0840 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1012/1 to ENGLISHMAN SALVONIA)

A/S Trawlers FOXTROT, STELLA POLARIS SPHENE left Belfast 1330/1 to join you. S.O. FOXTROT. (C. in C., W.A. 1333/1 to HIGHLANDER)

Sailed A/S Trawlers FOXTROT, STELLA POLARIS SPHENE, to assistance of SAGUENAY. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1456/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

RINGHORN
(Attacked 28/11)

Norwegian RINGHORN arrived Belfast Lough damaged by submarine attack 28/11. No salvage assistance required. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1831/1)

54° 23' N., 20° 11' W., unknown vessel torpedoed, sinking. (Lands End Radio, 2317/1) Also received from Valentia Radio, with position 29° R 11 W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0404 — A.F. message 54.40 N., 15.50 W., at 0304/1 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0810/1) (C. in C., W.A., 0752/1)

2342/30 — D.F. at 2242 G.M.T/30 Probable U-Boat in vicinity of 12° 00 N., 33° 00 W. (C. in C., S.Atlantic, 1211/1 to Cdre. S.L.S. 57 DRAMATIST) (C. in C., S.A. 1311N/1 to R.A.S.A.D., CUMBERLAND)

0020 — A.F. message 54.23, N., 20.11 W., at 2320/1 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0050/2)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 in N.W. Approaches probably north of 55° N., and west of 20° W.
2 south west of Ireland bound for Gironde.
German- 1 about 1550 miles S.W. of Cape Verde Islands.
1 about 54° N., 17° W at 0400/1.
1 about 55° N., 23° W., at 1911/30
1 about 56° N., 20° W., at 0950/30
1 between 56° 30' N., and 57° 30' N., and between 16° W., and 18° W., at 1124/1.
1 between Faroes and Orkneys possibly homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1258/1/1)

Submarines Attacked

1250 — By ACTIVE. Your 1250. Continue hunt for present. VETERAN, VANSITTART are being told to report when they will join convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 1416/1 to ACTIVE) My 1250/1. Consider target non-sub. Rejoined convoy VANSITTART in company (ACTIVE 1535/1)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Submarine Attack on H.X. 90. FORFAR Sunk

About 15 ships were torpedoed in the North West Approaches last night and this morning, of which 14 are known to have been in Convoy H.X. 90. A.M.C. FORFAR which was one the ships torpedoed sank later.

Aircraft reported a large number of ships off Ostend at 1700 today, Four M.T.B's were sent to investigate.

British Air Activity

Special patrols of the Norwegian Coast were flown today, with a view to naval action being taken against shipping. Aircraft reported a convoy of 13 merchant ships just south of Stadlandet at 1100, with a flak ship.

A special patrol was flown East of Iceland today.

A Sunderland patrol was maintained today in the area in which Convoy H.X. 90 was attacked last night.

A small force of heavy bombers last night successfully attacked the Naval Shipbuilding Yards at Wilhelmshaven. Some barges lying off the Dutch Coast were attacked today, but weather conditions hampered other operations.

A Blenheim of Coastal Command, on routine patrol today attacked and hit a 2000 ton merchant vessel off the coast of Norway.

Two destroyers were attacked off Egersund by torpedo which missed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Measures to counter night air attacks such as that made on Southampton 30/11-1/12 are detailed in Admty 1307/2.

Attack on Southampton

Southampton was attacked again last night. One small H.M.ship was sunk and five damaged (4 only slightly) and 2 other ships had casualties. One Dutch merchant ship was slightly damaged and a small Dutch Schoyt was sunk. Damage was done in the dock area but reports from repair yards indicate that work will not be seriously delayed. Thornycroft's yard was damaged and minor damage was caused to a T.B.D. on stocks.

Bristol was attacked today from 1800 onwards No reports of damage have been received.

SS KILGARRAN CASTLE was attacked early this afternoon 25 miles S.W. of Kinsale Head. No damage is reported.

Mining

Operation G.Q.

ADVENTURE, covered by 3 destroyers last night laid mines about 180 miles west of Ushant.

Enemy Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active in the Bristol Channel last night.

SS JOLLY GIRLS (483 tons) under Govt. Charter, a straggler from Convoy F.N. 47 was mined and sunk off the Tyne today.

The Tyne was reopened at 1422 today and closed again at 1756.

A mine was detonated this morning at Plymouth, slightly damaging a sweeper.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

CALIFORNIA intercepted the German SS KLAUS SCHOKE this evening about 250 miles East of the Azores. The crew scuttled the ship, but it is possible an attempt may be made to tow her to the Azores or Gibraltar.

Mediterranean

Air Attack on Valona — 9 Blenheims successfully attacked Valona p.m. today. Damage was done at the port, a small ship alongside the jetty was hit and a near miss was obtained on another.

Dodecanese — C. in C., Meditn. telegraphs that the questions raised in his 1241/17/11 are becoming increasingly urgent and he asks for the Admiralty policy regarding the future of these islands.

Operation "Collar" — Matters of interest concerning this operation are contained in C. in C., Med. 1657/2.

Brindisi — H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. reports that there is no obvious result of damage from the attack on Brindisi by Wellingtons on 29/11.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Destroyer Sailing Dates

Your 2258/30. As every Destroyer is urgently required for service request you will advance dates of sailing where practicable. Main requirement of training to counter U-Boat attack on surface at night. (C. in C., W.A., 1120/2 to R.A.D. H.F)

VESPER VENOMOUS

In view of U-Boat activity and heavy commitment for destroyers on December 18th it is requested that VESPER and VENOMOUS may be retained till completion of operation of December 18th. (C. in C., W.A. 1706/2 to Admty)

ARGUS RAMILLES ECLIPSE

Admty. 2109/26. Will not be sailed to U.K. till further orders issued. (V.C.N.S. 1533/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE

At 1130/2. (D.C. 1130/2) At 2330/2. (D.C. 2353/2)

Movements

Nore Command Ships out of action

(C. in C., Nore, 0940/2 to Admty.)

JACKAL

My 2243/1. JACKAL is complying with your 1550/1, but intend leave Convoy dark 3rd to arrive destination daylight p.m./4., (JACKAL 1024/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

ENCHANTRESS

Sailed from Sheerness 1016/2. (C. in C., Nore, 1128/2 to F.O.I.C. London) Arrived London. (F.O.I.C. London 1700/2 to Admty)

KASHMIR

Destroyers return Plymouth forthwith with despatch. Report E.T.A. (C. in C., W.A., 1 34/2 to KASHMIR) You may be attacked by Surface Force. (C. in C., W.A., 1222/2 to KASHMIR)

/EXMOOR.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

EXMOOR COTSWOLD CHITRAL SALOPIAN	EXMOOR with COTSWOLD pass Switha 0001/3 to R/V with CHITRAL and SALOPIAN on 090° Butt of Lewis 10 miles at 1200/3. CHITRAL and SALOPIAN bound Reykjavik leave Clyde 1500/2 through Minches to position A. 61° N., 15°W Escort to Position A and thence return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1146/2 and 1657/2) SALOPIAN Movements from Position A. (A.C.N.S. T. 1251/2 to F.O.C.N.P.)
JUPITER	KASHMIR's 1100 E.T.A. 1520/2. (JUPITER 1200/2 to C. in C., W.A.)
WOLVERINE	Proceed at your best speed. (C. in C., W.A. 1234/2 to WOLVERINE)
PUNJABI	Proceed with despatch. There are signs of enemy activity in the Channel. (C. in C., W.A. 1238/2 to PUNJABI) E.T.A. 2300/2 (PUNJABI 1527/2 to C. in C., W.A.) Keep North of 50° N., till 0500/3. Arrive 180° Rame Head 2.2 miles at 0930/3. (C. in C., W.A. 1655/2 to PUNJABI)
FORMIDABLE VESPER VENOMOUS	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1241/2 to Admty. My 1746/27. On completing defects FORMIDABLE to proceed Clyde to embark stores and important Freight in my 1336/30. Then to Scapa to work up and will sail about 18/12. (A.C.N.S. H. 1524/2 to C. in C., W.A.) See Raider Volume.
ASPHODEL CALENDULA GERANIUM JONQUIL	When will ships be ready to sail (C. in C W.A. 1320/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
VANESSA	EGLINTON's 1208. Propose sailing at 1600 (VANESSA 1356/2 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)
Orkneys	Trawler Line Tonight (A.C.O.S. 1516/2)
Rosyth Area	Movements (C. in C., Rosyth 1520/2 and 2105/2)
Dover	Dispositions for night 2/2. (V.A.Dover 1521/2)

/KING GEORGE V.....

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

KING GEORGE V SOMALI MASHONA BEAGLE BULLDOG ESCAPADE	Sailed 1445/2 from Rosyth for Pentland Firth. E.T.A. 0400/3 and thence to Scapa. (C. in C., Rosyth 1541/2 to Admty.) ESCAPADE with BRILLIANT proceed passing Switha 0310 tomorrow to rendezvous with KING GEORGE V escorted by SOMALI, MASHONA BEAGLE, BULLDOG due Pentland Firth 0400/3 (ii) when met relieve SOMALI, MASHONA. ESCAPADE take over S.O. of escort and act under orders of KING GEORGE V. (R.A.D.H.F. 2055/2 to ESCAPADE)
Nore & Harwich	Movements (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1629/2)
LEOPARD	Proceed at best speed till North of Lands End. (C. in C., W.A. 1648/2 to LEOPARD)
SOMALI MASHONA	My 1055/1. SOMALI and MASHONA to be relieved in Pentland Firth and proceed to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1815/2 to R.A.D. H.F)
BEVERLEY BURNHAM BRADFORD	Your 1120/2. BEVERLEY and BURNHAM sail 6/12 and BRADFORD 7/12. (R.A.D. 2250/2 to C. in C., W.A.)
PEGASUS	Your 1653/2. Request you route ship and escort to arrive 180° Rame Head 2.2 miles Following alternative route if Plymouth closed. (C. in C., W.A., 2314/2 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operations

Operation D.N.	Prepare to order Operation in area Jaederens Point to Lister Light on 3/12 with C.S. 2. in ARETHUSA, AURORA, and 4 Destroyers of 6th D.F. (C. in C., H.F. 1817/2 to B.C.1) Operation to be carried out as by my 1817/2 (C. in C., H.F., 2341/2 to B.C.1) Operation may be carried out Night 3/12. Ships passing North of 58° 30' N., 3° 15'E., sweep between Jaederens and Lister, passing North of same point on return. (V.A.S. 2348/2)

/Embarking.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Embarking Troops — Your 1703/27/11. Largs considered unsuitable. Propose to use Gourock Pier. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1855/2 to Admty.)

Ostend — M.T.B's 22,14,67 and 68 to investigate Ostend Roads and attack without challenge any ships E of 2° 15' E., (C. in C., Nore 1914/2 to BEEHIVE)

Submarines

CACHALOT — Intend sail escorted from Clyde at 0845/3 from near Lands End and thence unescorted to patrol (S.2. 1033/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) To patrol off Ponta Delgada. Route from Lands End. (V.A.N.P. 1206/2)

Submarine Bombing Restrictions — Institute submerged SBR thirty miles each side of line joining BTFS 0000 CPCZ 3000 and GKZB 1000 from 0001/3 to 2359/6. Total SBR in Holyhead Sanctuary from 0800 to 1700 daily from 3/12 to 7/12 and extend SBR in Clyde santuary from 1800/3 to 0800/4. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/2 to 15 and a8 Groups)

O. 21
STURGEON
SEALION
SUNFISH — There are indications that an enemy force may move from Skagerrak to the northwards in the near future. Submarines proceed to vicinity of following position. Netherlands submarine O.21 18 miles west of Utsire. STURGEON 18 miles west of Kors Fiord. SEALION 18 miles west of Utvoer. SUNFISH 20 miles north of Stadlandet. (V.A.S. 1259/2 to S/M's Area A)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0800/3 (V.A.S. 1811/2 and 1051/3)

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols

My 1824/1. Following additional patrols being flown: Stab Stand
In addition one Beaufort from Wick to Norwegian coast in 59° 02' N., then 20 miles Northwards and return. One Beaufort from Wick to Norwegian coast in 58° 15' N then coastwise to 58° 04' N., and return. (C. in C., Rosyth 0910/2 to Admty)

Milford Haven

My 1508/21/9 and your letter No 0389BB/3003/ M.H. of 29.10. Approval has been given to examine the practicability of providing a balloon barrage for convoy anchorage and outer Channel.
2. Request you will report limits of the area in which ships awaiting convoy are berthed and area of outer channel to be protected with reference to O.S. Sheet 99. (D. of L.D. 1045/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

Night Fighter Patrol

Arrangements made. To come into effect Night 2/3. (D. of L.D. 1307/2) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Air Activity

Thames Estuary

Fireworks seen night 1/2 (X.D.O. Sheerness 1215/2 to C. in C., Nore)

KILGARRAN CASTLE

Attacked by A/C 25 miles S.W. of Kinsale Head at 1236/2. (Valentia Radio 1236/2)

Southampton

Air Raid on night 1/2. Details of damage. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2 and 2203/2 to Admty.)

ASIE

(A/S Trawler) Some damage by near miss in Southampton Air-Raid 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)

FEZZARA II

(A.P.Vessel- Bombed and sunk in Southampton Air Raid Night 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)

NEIL SMITH (M/S Trawler)
GREENFINCH (Obs.Minelayer)
HAWFINCH (Obs.Minelayer)
PRESIDENT BRIAND (Minesweeper)

Slightly damaged by Bomb Splinters in Southampton Air Raid Night 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)

HOBURG

Slightly damaged in Air Raid 30/11. Two Dutch Schuyts and a coal barge seriously damaged 30/11 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2203/2)

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Liverpool — My 1630/1. Vessels approaching Port should keep North of line joining Bar L.V. to B.1. Pillar Buoy (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1007/2 to Admty.)

Operation J.H. — Suggest you consider repeating as soon as ICARUS has completed present operation and if moon permits (V.C.N.S. 1149/2 to C. inC., Portsmouth)

Operation G.Q. — Proceed at your best speed. (C. in C., W.A. 1220/2 to ADVENTURE) ADVENTURE Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1746/2 to Admty) Operation G.Q. Completed. (ADVENTURE 1557/2)

Tyne — Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1422/2) Closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1756/2 to Admty)

Operation G.R. — ICARUS to lay 3 miles 360° from 360° Ile de Bas Light 6 miles on Night 3/4. Details (C. in C., W.A. 1704/2 to ICARUS)

JOLLY GIRLS — (British, 483 Gross) Mined and sunk about ¼ mile North of T.I. Buoy. 4 injured. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1756/2 and 2311/2 to Admty)

Plymouth — Since my 1921/28 an Acoustic Mine detonated at 1010 by single L. in 140° New Grounds Buoy 1½ cables. Slight damage to sweeper. No casualties. (C. in C., W.A., 1817/2)

Berry Head — Heavy Explosion to E. of Berry Head. (C. in C., W.A. 1822/2)

Enemy Intelligence

Stadlandet — A/C reports Convoy of 13 M/V's just south of Stadlandet at 1100, steering 160° at 10 knots, with 1 Flak ship. (C. in C., Rosyth 1340/2 to Adty.) (V.A.S. 1431/2 to S/M's Area A)

Sogne Fiord — A/C reports Convoy of small Fishing vessels led by 2000 ton ship at 1127/ in 62° N., 4° 55' E., (C. in C., Rosyth 1446/2)

Aldeburgh — Patrol HU reports unidentified Surface Craft near Aldeburgh at 2222 (C. in C., Nore 2259/2 to EGLINTON)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

TARTAR	(Suspected sabotage) My 0124/29. Board of Inquiry being held on 4/12. (C. in C., W.A. 0953/2 to D.N.I.)
BOREAS (Norwegian, 2801 tons)	Sailed rescue Tug SEINE to assist in 240° The Smalls 10 miles (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1041/2) SEINE towing BOREAS arrived. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2300/2) Tugs unable to bring BOREAS into harbour. Will attempt at daylight (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0258/3)
OTWAY	(H.M. S/M) Struck by SS ST.MODAN while berthed at pier at Campbeltown. Slight damage (S.7 1044/2 to Admty)
ST. LOHAN	(A/S Trawler) In collision at 0305/1 with CITY OF HEREFORD in 056° Isle of May 9½ miles. Damage being surveyed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1121/2 to Admty.) Request Board of Inquiry. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1301/2 to C. in C., Rosyth)
RAJAHSTAN	(British, 6391 tons) One engine completely disabled. Am trying to proceed. Position 54° 51' N., 18° 46' W., (RAJAHSTAN 1138/2 to Admiral, Devonport)
WHITE BEAR	Crack in main steam-pipe. Request proceed Dundee for repairs. (WHITE BEAR 1426/2 to C. in C., Rosyth) Approved (C. in C., Rosyth 1629/2)

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
F.S. 49 F.S. 51	M/LS 106, 108 and 110 were unable to sail in time for F.S. 49 intend sailing them to join F.S. 51 on 4/12. (F.O.Humber 0922/2)
F.N. 49 F.S. 51 F.S. 52	GUILLEMOT to sail to escort F.N. 49 and F.S. 51 WIDGEON is to sail at 0800/4 and proceed to rendezvous before dark with F.S. 52 due Outer Dowsing at 1800/4. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2)
Information H.X. 92 S.C. 14 H.X. 93	Eastbound convoy may be met approximately as follows H.X. 92 escorted by MONTCLARE 6th/7th December. S.C. 14 escorted by FORFAR 7th/8th December. H.X. 93 escorted by AURANIA 8th/9th December. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1116/2 to PORPOISE) My 1116/2. For FORFAR read SALOPIAN. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1603/4)
H.X. 90	GENTIAN ordered to R.V. (VISCOUNT, 0830/2 to C. in C., W.A.)
S.C. 11	On time at R.V. List of ships torpedoed (see U/Boat Campaign) (D.T.D., 1803/2 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
H.X. 85	On time at R.V. all ships present. Cdre. reports very favourable on this convoy despite bad weather and alterations of course at night. (D.T.D., 1805/2, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
H.X. 86	On time at R.V. with 36 ships. S.W. winds, rough sea. (D.T.D. 1806/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
C.W. 16	Owing to enemy minelaying in swept channel between Folkestone Gate and S. Goodwin postponed until 5/12. (C. in C., Nore, 1844/2)
F.N. 49, F.S. 51	GUILLEMOT to sail to escort (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2)
Positions	At 0900/2. North Atlantic Convoys (D.T.D. to C. in C., H.F. 1123/2)
F.S. 52	WIDGEON to sail at 0800/4 to R.V. before dark with F.S. 52 due Outer Dowsing 1800/4 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2) Escorted by VANITY, WESTMINSTER. PRIMULA to act as additional escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1749/2)

/S.C. 13.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
S.C. 13	Meet 0900/4 unescorted. Position. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1311/2 and 2334/2 to WELLINGTON, SABRE, SCIMITAR, SHIKARI, CLARKIA, HELIOTROPE)
O.B. 252	To alter course at 2000/2 (C. in C., W.A. to escorts as for S.C. 13, 1252/2)
W.N. 48	To R.V. with CHITTY 56° 52' N., 7° 9' W., 1030/3 (N.C.S.O. Oban 1317/2)
S.L. 56	WORCESTERSHIRE, CALIFORNIA leave patrol to R.V. with S.L. 56. Position. Time. (F.O.C.N. P. 1414/2)
O.B. 253	Sailed 1358/2. Escort WALKER, WESTCOTT, HONEYSUCKLE, CANDYTUFT (N.C.S.O.Liverpool 1423/2) WALKER proceed to Londonderry forthwith to refuel and then rejoin.convoy. WESTCOTT, orders re fuelling (C. in C., W.A. 2055/2)
W.N. 47	Join Clyde portion escorted by one A/S trawler code word "Muster" (C. in C., W.A. 1550/1 to JACKAL, COREOPSIS)
W.N. 47 (O)	Running as separate convoy (N.C.S.O. Oban 1602/2 to Admty.)
H.X. 91	Cancel route ordered and sustitute (D.T.D. 1802/2 to REVENGE)
S.C. 14	Left Sydney C.B., at 1200 A.S.T./30. Endeavour to intercept on your return voyage and report if diversion understood. SALOPIAN is joining as ocean escort in about 35° W., (D.T.D., 1802/2, to REVENGE)
W.N. 49	Code "Rusty" Escorts unappropriated. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1226/2)
H.G. & O.G. speed of ships	Ships of less than 1,000 tons gross not to be accepted for H.G. and O.G. convoys unless capable of speed of at least 10 knots loaded. (D.T.D. 1234/2)
F.S. 49	SHELDRAKE to meet (C. in C., Nore, 1200/2)

/Troop Convoys.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 (A)

Convoy W.S. 5 (A) will leave the U.K. on (date)

2. Included in the convoy will be at least thirty ships carrying personnel and valuable M.T.

3. C. in C., W.A. is requested to state maximum number of destroyers he can provide from his command and whether he considers this escort adequate.

4. On breaking off from W.S. 5 (A) escort will be required to R/V with and bring in Convoy T.C. 8. (D.O.D. (H) 1545/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

Shipping At Scapa

Your 1150/25. Arrangements have been made to reduce traffic of non-British vessels to Scapa as far as possible and that such vessels shall be acceptable from the security point view (D.T.D., to A.C.O.S. 1104/2)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Warships in Beirut.

One French S/M left Beirut some days ago not returned.
French Warships now in Port are Light Cruisers GUEPARD VALMY Sloop M/S ANNAMITE LA GRANDIERE S/M's DAUPHIN Oiler ADOUR. (Consul General Beyrout 1001/2 to Admty.)

Interception of French Ships.

312. Your 1916/27/11. French ship VILLE DE TAMATAVE to be intercepted. In these and similar cases it is intended to instruct warships on North Atlantic station to place armed guard on such vessels if encountered. They will be directed to U.K. if possible, otherwise Gibraltar and risk of interception by French patrolling craft with consequent loss of an armed guard will be accepted. French patrol and escort ships are liable to be encountered off St. Vincent. (F.O.C.N.A. 1652/2 to Admty.)

CUBA.

The Senior Naval Officer in French ship CUBA has represented that conditions under which personnel are confined in that ship are inferior to those which would normally be accorded to prisoners of war or internees. Ship undoubtedly overcrowded and general conditions poor.
Adequate stocks of provisions have been supplied but personnel on board have no money to buy cigarettes or any smaller requirements. The policy in circumstances as these not known and it is requested I may be informed whether some small scale of cash payment together with an issue of service tobacco may be allowed.
Ship has now been in custody for a month.
(C.in C. S.A. 1947N/2, to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH.

Sailed 1600/30/11 from Freetown to Scapa (route) (F.O.C.N.A. 0932/2). C.in C. S.A. 1015/30/11. Request signal EDINBURGH onward routeing instructions from position (11) Orlock Head. (F.O.C.N.A. 1808/2 to C.in C. W.A.).

JERSEY.

Arrived Gibraltar 1615/2. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1615/2).

WISHART.

Departed Gibraltar 1830/2 to R/V with DEPTFORD. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1900/2)

/ SERPA PINTO .....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

SERPA PINTO (Portuguese)

My 1527 29/11. SERPA PINTO left Santos 30/11 due Freetown 7/12 or 8/12.
Master has never applied to me for route instructions on his normal voyages and possibly has not done so at Santos on this occasion. Number of berths available not yet known. Request may be informed urgently name of reliable shipping agent at Freetown.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1500/2 to N.S.O.(I) Freetown).

Your 1500/2, last sentence. Sierra Leone Coaling Company (telegraphic address Coaling Sierra Leone). (S.O.I. Freetown, 0931N/3).

South Atlantic.

ITAPE, 22 Germans Removed.

As CARNARVON CASTLE has removed 22 Germans from Brazilian ITAPE her visit to Rio de Janeiro must be postponed about 4 days pending their transfer elsewhere. Report any local reactions. (Cdre. S.A.D. to N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 0111Z/2).
Your 0801Z/1. You cannot be spared to proceed Freetown. R.V. with QUEEN OF BERMUDA in 28° S., 45° W. at 1200Z/4 and transfer 22 Germans to her.
On completion of transfer proceed Rio de Janeiro to refuel informing N.A. Rio E.T.A. Report position where ITAPE was intercepted. (Cdre. S.A.D., 0104Z/2 to CARNARVON CASTLE). CARNARVON CASTLE 0801Z/2 and R.A.S.A.D. 0111Z/2 passed to you for information (C.in C. S.A. 1056/2 to Admty.)

MEROPI.

My 1806/29/11. Arrived Montevideo 30/11. (F.O.(I) Freetown 0752/2).

ROSS, CLAN MACWHIRTER

Due Capetown 27/11 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1105/2).

Convoys
S.L.58
S.L. (Slow) 58

Your 1944/30/11. R/V in 054° 40' N., 018° 50' W. at 0900/24/12 and 0900/26/12 G.M.T. respectively. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1118/2 to Admty.)

HEIYO MARU

My 1002 2/12, (Addressed PRINCE ROBERT) Japanese ship HEIYO MARU sailed for Paita 1700 G.M.T. 2/12.
(Callao, 1201/2 to D.N.I.)

HERMONTHIS
HEIYO MARU
VENICE MARU
PRINCE ROBERT

Report (A.2) German ship HERMONTHIS has postponed sailing temporarily. HEIYO MARU due to leave Callao 1700 G.M.T. 2/12 ? reluctant to leave. VENICE MARU due to arrive Callao 1900 G.M.T. 2/12 from Guayaquil. Suggest PRINCE ROBERT gives wide Berth while patrolling.
(S.O.(I), Callao, 1527/1 to PRINCE ROBERT)

/ A/S Vessels for ..

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

A/S Vessels for Mediterranean.

My 1752B/25/11. Owing to Governments engagement to Parliament not to send organised forces outside Africa impossible for four A/S Vessels to be loaned to R.N. except on following conditions. (Details)
I am endeavouring to ascertain if guarantee of employment in North African waters only (for example Alexandria) would meet the difficulty. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1705/2 to Admty.).

DORSETSHIRE, defects.

Have developed excessive vibration Port inner propeller necessitating trailing this shaft. Suspect propeller blade. My position course and speed are 032° 07' S. 029° 30' E. 223°, 17 knots maximum except in emergency. (DORSETSHIRE, 19152/2, to Capt. i/c Simonstown).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Battleships. It is reported that 2nd B.S. consisting of ANDREA DORIA and VITTORIO VENETO are now at Spezzia after having been engaged South of Sardinia on 27/11 B.1. (Capt: C.S. Alexandria 0902/2).

Convoy A.N.8. Escorted by VOYAGER and VENDETTA, left Alexandria and Port Said 2/12 for Piraeus. CALCUTTA joins a.m./4. 3 C.S. covering the passage. (D.O.R. 4/12).

Leghorn. Admty. 1558/28. Bombing oil storage at Leghorn. Request your remarks. My 1545/18/11 is being passed to you. (C.in C. Med. 1121/2 to S.O.Force H.)

Route for UTMOST. Amendment to 1939/30. (N.O.I.C.Malta 1229/2).

Air Reconnaissance. Brindisi 1012 2-1/2. Convoy 11 large merchant ships leaving harbour. 3-6inch cruisers, 9 destroyers inner harbour. Taranto. LITTORIO battleships moved to entrance of harbour no nets round, 4 cruisers in inner harbour. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1417/2).

Air Operation. 1/12, 2 Blenheims attacked 100 aircraft on aerodrome at Benina destroying 2, damaging 2. 4 ships 3000 tons anchored off Tobruk. 3 ships 1000 tons, 1 ship 2000 tons off Ras Venna. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1447/2).

Dodecanese. Questions raised in my 1241/17/11 (T.H.I. 2008/17) becoming increasingly urgent. Asking for policy re future of islands. (C.in C. Med. 1645/2 to Adty).

Italian Morale. Details from Turkey secret source, period 18/11-25/11 (Wolffson 1915/2).

Movements. Summary No.172 (C.in C. Med. 1740/2).

MANCHESTER. On passage to U.K. left Alexandria 1400/2 for Suda Bay. (D.O.R.4/12).

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WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Roumanian Ships.

Your 1225/11 28/11 and Wolffson's 1226/28. Agree most desirable the ships should be got out of the Black Sea If they can be induced to sail for any port in Mediterranean their interception will be arranged. Question of purchase or seizure can then be decided whilst they are being held for contraband control.
(C.in C. Med., 1445/2, to N.A. Angora).

Italian Intelligence.

Ankara reports B.3 Italians intend shortly bombarding Amyrgos and Nikaria Island from Thesea. Governor General of Dodecanese Vecchi using Aeroplanes painted Greek colours for local flights. Trouble expected from Dodecanese population owing to food shortage.
(Capt: on Staff Alexandria 1519/2).

Motor Craft.

My 1429/16 and 1225/15/11. Can any reply now be given regarding provision of these M.T.B's and fast motor craft. Our occupation of Crete greatly increases possibility of profitable employment of such craft.
(C.in C. Med. 1647/2 to Adty).

Operation "Collar" Points of Interest.

My 1207/17/11. Operation M.B.9. (COLLAR). Apart from operation reported in my 1307/26/11. Following were matters of interest.

1. F.O.C. 3rd C.S. reported hearing three muffled explosions at 2334/27 when in 036° 00'N., 013° 55' E. This attack presumably by a submarine was probably the basis of the Italian claim to have sunk a convoy of 3 ships. This is the third recent report of muffled explosions followed by extravagant Italian submarine claims and it appears they are firing at long range probably from the Deep, the torpedoes exploding at (? end) of their run.

3. From W/T interception there was considerable enemy activity in the Narrows during the night of 27/28 but no report from our ships of any attack.

4. While first div. 1st B.S. and ILLUSTRIOUS and 3rd C.S. were westw. of Malta on 28/11 there was considerable air activity which chiefly took the form of attack on Malta but six J.U. 87 K Dive bombers attacked GLASGOW and

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operation "COLLAR" Points of Interest. (Contd.)

obtained near miss, but caused no damage or casualties. One Dive Bomber was shot down by GLASGOW. 6 of ILLUSTRIOUS's Fulmars intercepted 6 C.R. 42's. Fulmars claim one certain shot down and two damaged. 3 Fulmars slightly damaged but serviceable same day. It is Fulmars' first fighter engagement.

5. Corvette and one destroyer remained at Malta with engine defects otherwise programme completed as planned. An important feature was that except for aircraft mentioned in paragraph 4 and in paragraph 4 of my 1307/26, no enemy aircraft were sighted East of Malta throughout operation by any unit nor does there appear to have been any shadowing.
(C.in C. Med. 1657/2).

Aircraft Reconnaissance.

I.137 2/12. Combined services report - Malta up to 1700 hours 2/12. All times G.M.T. reconnaissance reported sighted at 0950 convoy of 11 M/V, of 8,000 tons each coming out of Brindisi. In Brindisi harbour - 3 6-inch cruisers and 9 destroyers. No obvious result of damage by Wellington operations referred to in my I.131 29/11 Taranto. LITTORIO battleship in outer harbour has been moved towards entrance of harbour and is now without nets and supports. CAVOUR battleship still supported in outer harbour - still with tilt - unable to see others on account of clouds. 4 cruisers in inner harbour.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1720/2).

A.89 2/12 X.6232. Operational Summary 19. 9 Blenheim aircraft raided Valona p.m./2/12. A large building was hit and one part left in flames. Very large explosion was seen indicating something more than bombs going off and black smoke seen from wharf area. Main jetty, seaplanes damaged. Other buildings hit and one small ship in harbour. Photographs confirm damage to jetty, hit on ship alongside jetty and very near miss on one other, also hits in ammunition dump area. One C.R.42 believed shot down from large enemy fighter formation which made persistent attacks. One of our aircraft forced landed at Araxos, crew safe, aircraft believed damaged.
(H.Q. B.A.F. Greece 1751/2).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Boom Defence Vessels for Turkey.

Turks are pressing for delivery of 5 BAR Class Boom Vessels and 3 Boom trawlers. It is not at present possible for boom craft to make passage to Mediterranean, but as a gesture BARSETTE might be transferred if Suda Bay defences can be run from Mediterranean resources reinforced by BURGONET. Request your views.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1944/2 to C.in C. Med.)

Orders to UPRIGHT.

MANCHESTER expects to arrive Malta a.m./4. Keep Northwards 035° 42'N., before entering searched channel and do not enter sanctuary before 0200.
(V.A.Malta 2113/2 to UPRIGHT).

Greek Troop Transport.

42nd. Regiment 37th. Modena Division embarked at Ancona arrived at Valona 14/11. Ship was escorted by small torpedo boat and one aeroplane.
(M.A. Athens, 2215/2 to W.O.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Pilgrim Ships.

MICE No. 9023, 30/11 being passed to you with reference to my 1202/28.
These ships are made safer by being put into convoy because enemy are sinking indiscriminately. On other hand, these ships in convoy render themselves liable to legitimate attack. If any information is given to Italians, therefore, I suggest it should be no more than name of ships carrying pilgrims. By reason of enemy right of visit and search this will at least remove excuse for sinking of ships bot in convoy which have left a convoy. (C.in C. E.I., 0544Z/2, to Admty.)

COLOMBO

(1) COLOMBO is to proceed now to Durban to arrive p.m./6.

CARTHAGE orders.

(ii) CARTHAGE is to proceed now to Durban at best speed and is to (5 groups omitted) sailing of C.M.7 is to be delayed accordingly.
(C.in C. E.I. 0640Z/2 to Force W.)

Dante.

My 0502/28/11. DORSETSHIRE's report as follows. (Re Defences of Dante and best method of attack) (C.in C. E.I. 1000Z/30).

CERES.

CERES to leave Mombasa p.m./3 and proceed Mahe, Seychelles passing through positions 011° S. 045° E. and 011° 40'S. 050°E. adjusting speed to arrive 8/12. CLYDEFIELD is being sent to Mahe from Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I., to Force W. 1216/2).

Convoy W.S.4.

Your 1211/1 Red Sea escorts will be reconsidered and I hope to arrange accordingly without convoys being delayed. My chief concern is to give good A.A. protection to such valuable convoys. (C.in C. E.I. 1234Z/2 to Adty.)

America and West Indies.

22 German prisoners removed from ITAPE.

Your 0801Z/1. Object is protection of trade. You cannot therefore be spared to proceed to Freetown. Rendezvous with QUEEN OF BERMUDA in 028° S. 045° W. at 1200Z/4 and transfer 22 German prisoners to her. QUEEN OF BERMUDA conform and retain prisoners pending further instructions. On completion of transfer CARNARVON CASTLE proceed to Rio de Janeiro to refuel. Report position where ITAPE was intercepted. 0114Z/2.

/ CARADOC .....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

CARADOC. Bermuda 1/12 departure CARADOC in accordance with my 1202/30/11 to arrive Florida Straits a.m./4. (C.in C. A.W.I. 0903/2).

SANDWICH. SANDWICH has not yet arrived at Sydney Cape Breton. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1438/2).

LISIEUX
EUGENA CAMPANIS
Lost at sea

My 1721/22 (S.C. draft sailing telegram) LISIEUX and EUGENA CAMBANIS reported lost at sea. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B., 0921/2). LISIEUX was in Convoy S.C.13 in Mid-Atlantic (D.O.R., 29/11).

N.C.S.O. Sydney's 0921/2 British URLA has reported by W/T she has crew of EUGENA CAMBANIS on board and is proceeding to St. John's, also reported Steamship BERNHARD proceeding to St. John's has 15 survivors of LISIEUX including four Officers. Also two dead.
Greek KATHARIOTISSA picked up one survivor of LISIEUX not known whether KATHIOTISSA is now proceeding.
N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1733/2 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

2.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KLAUS SCHOKE captured by CALIFORNIA.

My 1648. Ship sailed 2205 G.M.T., destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A. 0069/2.) KLAUS SCHOKE sailed from Ponta Delgada 2200/1, destination unknown. (V.A.S., 0724/2 to S/M's, Area B). (D.D.I.C., 0868/2 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A., etc.)

Captured KLAUS SCHOKE in 38° 28' N. 22° 15' W. Engine and boiler room flooded beyond control but bulkhead stands and hope to save ship and get in tow at daylight. Crew abandoned in great hurry and did not make good job of scuttling. Request permission to tow Azores for necessary assistance otherwise Gibraltar. (CALIFORNIA 2328/2).

HERMONTHIS.

My 1527 December 1st. Port authorities announced in Press HERMONTHIS sails noon today. HEIYO MARU sails same time please give additional Lima routine 1800 to 1830 G.M.T. today only. Peruvian Cruiser GRAU proceeded to sea. (N.S.O.(I) Callao 1002/2 to PRINCE ROBERT).

HERMONTHIS has postponed sailing temporarily (S.O.(I) Callao 1527/1).

My 1002/2 HERMONTHIS has received orders cancel sailing although pilot was actually on board and all papers signed. (N.S.O.(I) Callao 1540/2).

ARKADIA
ITHAKA

ARKADIA and ITHAKA arrived with 2,200 and 3,000 tons of Manganese Ore. (Macrae, Galatzi 1124/2).

SALZBURG

Departure German SALZBURG Braila. (N.C.S.O. Galata 1159/1.)

Following German ships have recently sailed Reference C.A.F.O. No. 422/40

772 HELGOLAND? 28/10 Puerto Colombia
813 RIO GRANDE 31/10 Rio Grande Do Sul.
318 and 577 IDARWALD 29/11
& RHEIN. Tampico.
547 PORTLAND 30/11 Coquimbo.

(C.in C. W.A. 1524/2 to BULOLO, DEPTFORD).

LECH
KARNAK
CAMPOAMOR
ARTIGAS

Departure Colon 29/11 LECH,
KARNAK 30/11 departure:-
CAMPOAMOR Gijon 1/12
ARTIGAS 1/12.
(Bilbao 1816/2).

IDARWALD
RHEIN

IDARWALD at 1700Z plus 5 on 1/12 position 020° 56'N. 093° 54' W. Course and speed made good since 1315 plus 5 was 077° 5.2 knots. RHEIN at 1930Zplus 5 first December off Puerto Mexico following coast line speed 7 knots. Funnel now black.

/ Each ship ...

MOST SECRET.

2.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

IDARWALD
RHEIN
(contd.)

Each ship is being shadowed by one U.S. destroyer.
Estimate IDARWALD proposal to pass to Southward of Alacran Shoal.
Endeavour to intercept IDARWALD.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1922/2, to R.A. 3 B.S.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

OLTERRA.
LAVORO.

Governor Gibtraltar Tel. unnumbered to F.O. June 13 Spanish Government state OLTERRA and LAVORO nearly ready. Request assurance of non-interference on journey from Gibraltar to Cadiz.
(A.N.A. Madrid, 1132/2, to Admty.)

PIER LUIGI
TORCELLO

Correct my telegram 1132/30 (PIER LUIGI) is still in port Tanker TORCELLO left for Batoum 30/11.
(Varna, 1630/2).

AEQUITAS

AEQUITAS passed Pernambuco southbound morning 2/12. Brazilian minelayer CABANEA took over escort duty from Brazilian minelayer CARIOCA.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 2007Z/2).

FRANCO MARTELLI

Has paid off the claim against her and has been released from embargo at Pernambuco (D.S. 454).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

FORFAR
A.M.C.

Have been struck by torpedo on starboard side, my position 040 QXNG 42. (FORFAR, 0250/2)

Engine Room and dynamo Room flooded, bulkheads holding at present. (FORFAR, 0439/2)

FORFAR torpedoed in position 054° 35 ' N., 018° 18' W., proceed to assistance forthwith. (C. in C., W.A., 0523/2 to ST. LAURENT)

Proceed forthwith to assistance of FORFAR reported in position 54° 42' N., 19° 00' W at 0250 today. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0558/2 to SEAMAN, THAMES)

My 0558, amend position to read 54° 35' N 18° 18' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0623/2)

Sailed tugs SEAMAN and THAMES from campbeltown to assistance of FORFAR in position 54° 35' N., 18° 18' W. Tug SEAMAN constant W/T watch on 500 KC/S. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0705/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

SALVONIA is to procedd forthwith to assistance of FORFAR in position 54° 35' N., 18° 18' W., at 0250 today. Tug SCHELDE has been sent from Campbeltown to assist ENGLISHMAN with SAGUENAY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0724/2)

Addressed GBXZ signal letters not known DUNSLEY have picked up crew of merchant cruiser assistance required master 0916/2 Position 54.40 N., 19.10 W., (Valencia Radio 0925/2)

Report if FORFAR still afloat and any information regarding other ships that have been attacked. (C. in C., W.A. 1548/2 to VISCOUNT)

?

Proceed to assistance of unknown ship reported torpedoed and sinking in position 054° 23' N., 020° 118 W., at 0017 (C. in C., W.A. 0040/2 to ST. LAURENT)

/LADY GLANELY.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

LADY GLANELY

British 5497 tons. Addressed following has been read:- Submarine Distress LADY GLANELY torpedoed 55.00 N., 20.00 W., at 0315/2. (Portishead, No. T.O.O./2 recd. 0430/2)

Steamship GLANELY torpedoed in position 055° 00' N., 020° 00' W., at 0415; investigate. (C. in C., S.A. 0442/2 to ST LAURENT)

?BOTAVON

DE GKIF (not known in War Registry) 55.03 N., 18.40 W., Am being attacked by submarine (Valentia Radio 0453/2)

Proceed to assistance ships torpedoed in position 055° N., 020° W., at 0415 and 054° 23' N., 020° 11' W at 2317. (C. in C., W.A. 0550/2 to VANQUISHER)

GOODLEIGH

British 5448 tons. S/M Distress, SSSS GOODLEIGH torpedoed in 55.02 N., 18.45 W (Valentia Radio, 0544/2)

S/M Distress. Torpedoed at 0537 (GOODLEIGH 0639/2)

TRADE

S/M Distress. Am being attacked (TRADE, T.O.R. 0554/2)

Ship being attacked in position 055° 03' N 018° 40' W., at 0553. (C. in C., W.A. 0610/2 to VISCOUNT)

Your 0610 am searching in the vicinity VANQUISHER complying with your 0550. GENTIAN ordered to rendezvous H.X. 90. (VISCOUNT 0830/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

SAGUENAY
(torpedoed 1/12)

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of SAGUENAY in position 54° 20' N., 15° 22' W., at 2000/1. Course 070° speed 4 knots HIGHLANDER and A/S Trawler escort standing by. Tug ENGLISHMAN already despatched. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0712/2 to SCHELDE)

Sailed SCHELDE to assistance of SAGUENAY (F...I.C. Greenock, 1204/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

/CONCH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

CONCH

British, British tanker, 8376 tons. Picked up survivors from CONCH in position 055° 40' N., 019° W., ship still afloat, stationary, proceeding to FORFAR 0736. (ST. LAURENT 0645/2)

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of Tanker CONCH torpedoed but reported floating in position 55° 40' N., 19° 00' W at 0645. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2304/2 to SUPERMAN)

VICTOR ROSS

British tanker, 12,247 tons. Following has been read. SSSS 56.04 N., 18.30 W., VICTOR ROSS torpedoed. (Plymouth W/T 0752/2)

After picking up survivors proceed to assistance of VICTOR ROSS torpedoed in 056° 04' N., 018° 30' W., at 0853/2 then rejoin convoy. Report situation. (C. in C., W.A. 1550/2 to VANQUISHER)

?

S/M Raider 54.35 N., 19.25 W., unknown ship torpedoed requires immediate assistance (Portishead Radio, 0830/2)

SEABANK SPRAY

My 0530/2 not to Admiralty and 936 A.Z. (a) Search by DEPTFORD failed to obtain contact (b) Not known, no signal made. (c) DEPTFORD starboard beam HAARLEM port beam GRMR (X) astern. (d) GDCH (X) Ship unidentifiable. Rear ship of number two column. Ship definitely sunk. (e) 0520/2 039°, 22' N., 014° 18' W., (f) 133° 28 hours proceeding zigzag. (g) B.C. sea 33 wind N.E. three fair dark night. (h) cause of explosion at present unknown. (DEPTFORD 0537/2 to Admty)

SEABANK SPRAY sunk probably torpedoed at 0530/2 in position 039° 22' N., 014° 18' W Survivors have been picked up. (F.O.C.N.A. 0943/2)

? JEANNE M

My 0931/2 (?0943 intended) Ship sunk was JEANNE M and not SEABANK SPRAY. Ship was in O.E. 46 and was torpedoed and sunk at 0545 B.S.T. 2/12 in position 39° 19' N., 13° 54' W., (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/5)

/TASSO.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

TASSO
MODANIA
GOODLEIGH

Have survivors from TASSO, MODAVIA, GOODLEIGH latter afloat. My position 054° 56' N., 018° 26' W. Am joining ST LAURENT at rendezvous to hunt S/M sighted on surface. (VISCOUNT 1028/2 to C. in C., W.A)

LOCH RANZA

54° 37' N., 18° 54' W., torpedoed and sinking have shipwrecked crew of another vessel aboard. (LOCH RANZA, 1257/2)

54° 37' N., 18° 54' W., torpedoed and sinking have shipwrecked crew of another vessel on board LOCH RANZA (Valentia Radio 1300/2)

Your 0550 (Proceed to assistance ships torpedoed 055° N., 020° W., at 0415 054° 23' N., 020° 11' W., at 2317) Have found no trace of other ship. Am proceeding assistance LOCH RANZA. (VANQUISHER 1424/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

My position is 054° 36' N., 018° 30' W., Escorting LOCH RANZA course 083° LOCH RANZA can proceed as long as number one bulkhead holds (corrupt group) towage (corrupt group) (? ST LAURENT 1800/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

FORFAR has sunk. Proceed with all despatch to assistance LOCH RANZA in position 54° 36' N., 18° 30' W., at 1800 steering 083° escorted by ST LAURENT. Ship proceeding while No 1 bulkhead holds. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2129/2 to SALVONIA)

STIRLINGSHIRE

Torpedoed at 1632 G.M.T. 55° 42' 16° 13' (STIRLINGSHIRE 1738/2)

Torpedoed in position 055° 28' N., 016° 00' W., Am hunting. (FOLKESTONE, 1805/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

1725/2, 55° 28' N., 016° 00' W., course 351° after 2 emergency turns to port STIRLINGSHIRE afloat and abandoned, master considers salvage doubtful. All saved and in GRANGE PARK. Attack pressed home boldly, contact lost (FOLKESTONE, 1935/2 to Admty.)

/W.HENDRICK....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

W.HENDRICK — Torpedoed 2027, 55° 00' N., 15° 40' W., Valencia W/T 2129/2)

WILHELMINA (H.X. 90) — 2116/2, 055° 43' N., 015° 06' W., course 071° Believe W. HENDRICK attacked, and 1 Oiler sank. HILLCROFT picked up survivors of oiler. (FOLKESTONE, 2251/2 to Admty)

Convoy attacked by one Wolff Condor. W. HENDRICK bombed and on fire. Can be salvaged. Request tug. Survivors on board GENTIAN. Correct my 2251/2. WILHELMINA only torpedoed and sunk, 56.32 N., 11.37 W (FOLKESTONE 1201/3)

VICTORIA CITY (H.X. 90) — British, 4739 tons, reported torpedoed (D.S. 455)

FORFAR
TASSO
KAVAK
LOCH RANZA
APPALACHEE
CONCH
RAJAHSTAN — FORFAR sunk. Survivors in VISCOUNT, ST. LAURENT, DUNSLEY. Have also survivors from TASSO, GOODLEIGH. My position at 1700/2 054° 36' N., 018° 10' W., course 093° escort LOCH RANZA with survivors of APPALACHEE on board. ST LAURENT in company with survivors of CONCH. RAJAHSTAN 10 miles to northward steering E. Intend rejoin convoy am short of fuel and both ships have sick men on board. (VISCOUNT, 1700/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

FORFAR
RAJAHSTAN — FORFAR has sunk. Proceed with all despatch to assistance of RAJAHSTAN in position 54° 46' N., 18° 10' W., at 1700 steering E at 3 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2133/2 THAMES SEAMAN)

If not in contact rejoin convoy forthwith (C. in C., W.A., 1800/2 to VISCOUNT, ST LAURENT)

Position 055° 42' N., 015° 06' W., course 071° 9 knots. (FOLKESTONE 2100/2 to VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN)

H.X. 90 — Convoy attacked again. (FOLKESTONE 2134/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

/OAKCREST.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

OAKCREST (Torpedoed 25/11) — Information received from Piermaster Castlebay that 6 British survivors and 8 bodies from SS OAKCREST were landed in lifeboat at Tangudae Isle of Barra at about 2200/1/12. Survivors now at Castlebay. Ship was in convoy O.B. 244 from Birkenhead to State of Virginia. Survivors state ship was torpedoed at 0600 25/11 in approximate position 53° N., 17°W. Of original 24 men in boat 10 were buried at sea. Another lifeboat said to have left ship with 3 men. No officer survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2107/2 to Admty.)

S.C. 11 — On time at R.V. Following ships torpedoed in N.W.Approaches: BRADFYNE, LEISE MAERSK, SALONICA, BUSSUM and JUSTICA sunk, BRUSE damaged. ALMA DAWSON mines and sunk. OOT MAR SUM not yet reported. (D.T.D. 1803/2 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

CHARLES F MEYER (Torpedoed 28/11) — Has arrived at Rothesay Bay (D.S. 455,456)

JEANNE M. — British, 2465 tons, in Convoy O.G. 46. Cardiff to Lisbon with coal, sunk by torpedo about 230 miles W. of Cape Roca, 39.22 N., 14.18 W., at 0520/2. Survivors have been picked up. (D.S. 455)

OAKCREST (Torpedoed 25/11) — British, 5407 tons, in convoy O.B. 244, torpedoed about 250 miles W. of Iceland on 25/11, is now presumed sunk. 18 of the crew were killed, 3 are missing, 6 have been landed on Barra Island. (D.S. 455)

Submarines Reported

0032 — S/M reported in 54.23 N., 20.11 W., Keep well clear to southward. (C. in C., W.A. 0032/2, to FORFAR)

0415 — A/F message 55.00 N., 20.00 W., at 0315/2 G.M.T. (N.I.D. 0505/2)

0150 — A/F message 54.36 N., 22° W., (D.D.I.C. 0647/2)

0553 — A/F message 55.03 N., 18.40 W., at 0453 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0647/2)

/0800.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

0800	One S/M bearing 340° distance 8 miles course 150° my position 108° D.S.C.N. 19 at 0800 (ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Gibraltar W/T 0830/2)
0852	A.F. message 56.04 N., 18.30 W., at 0752 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0938/2)
0950	Sighted S/M on surface, 54.35 N., 18.16 W., am hunting. (ST. LAURENT, 0950/2)
1023	U/Boat in approx. position 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1023 homeward bound. (V.A.S., to S/M's Area B 1051/2)
0830	Conflicting reports of S/M sighted 36.02 N., course 150°, northbound. (F.O.C.N.A., to DEPTFORD, JERSEY 1150/2)
1208 G.M.T.	S/M sighted 55° 29' N., 22° 00' W., (INDUNA 1410/2, Valencia Radio No T.O.O. Admty., 1500/2)
1610	D.F. probably U-Boat 56° N., 15° W. Unreliable fix. Probably reporting H.X. 90. (D.D.I.C. 1640/2)
1736	U-Boat reported in 055° 32' N., 007° 12' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1806/2)
	Indications at least 3 U-Boats working in 055° N., between 015 and 020° W., (C. in C., W.A. 2034/2 to VISCOUNT, ST LAURENT, VANQUISHER, WELLINGTON, SABRE)
1638	HAVELOCK, HARVESTER proceed to vicinity 054° 40' N., 018° 40' W., where several U-Boats are operating. HURRICANE HESPERUS follow when ready. (C. in C., W.A. 1638/2)
Estimated U-Boat Dispositions	Italian- 1 in vicinity of Rockall. 1 more in N.W. Approaches possibly N. of 55° N., and West of 20° W., 2 returning to Gironde, the foremost was about 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1023/2. German- 1 was about 550 miles S.W. of Cape Verde Islands on 30th. No recent news. 1 in 54° 35' N., 19° 25' W., at 0930/2. 1 about 55° N., 18° 45' W., at 0637/2. 1 about 56° N., 19° W., at 0852/2. 1 about 90 miles N.W. of Rockall at 2315/1. 1 near Rockall at 0209/2 probably moving South. Possibly 1 east of Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1221/2)

/Two Italian....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions-Contd.

Two Italian U-Boats returning to Gironde, the foremost was about 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1032. Possibly one German East of Shetlands homeward bound. (V.A.S. 1426/2)

Submarines Attacked

Attacking firm contact in position 054° 36' N., 018° 26' W., VISCOUNT in company. (ST. LAURENT 1132/2)

My 0830. Submarine dived and was attacked by KELVIN who reports 18 charges dropped air bubbles and oil seen consider U-Boat possibly sunk. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1203A/2 F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1800/2 and my 1700/2. Am endeavouring to find STIRLINGSHIRE en route to join convoy. ST LAURENT remaining with LOCH RANZA. Firm contact in vicinity of ST. LAURENT 1132/2 has been attacked with 80 depth charges. No visible result but contact fading. (VISCOUNT 1907/2 to C.in C., W.A.)

1620

FOLKESTONE (with convoy H.X. 90 see Ships Attacked) attacked contact and sighted periscope. At 1630/2 MODAVIA Captain sighted damaged U-Boat lying on its side which came awash 3 times and sank. This report being further investigated, but conclusion is that U-Boat fired torpedoes at STIRLINGSHIRE immediately before FOLKESTONE killed him. (Capt D. Liverpool to Admty., 1521/7)

70

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Sweep off Ostend

The M.T.B's returned to Harwich this morning. No incidents are reported.

Operation D.N.

C.S. 2. in ARETHUSA with AURORA and 4 Tribals left Scapa at 1114 today to carry out a sweep between Jaederens Point and Lister Light.

Convoy Protection

To meet the renewed U-Boat attacks on convoys west of the position where the usual local escort is in company it is intended as a temporary expedient to use the longer endurance destroyers with or near important convoys. Four destroyers of the Western Approaches Command have been mailed for this purpose. Sloops and Corvettes are not fast enough to catch U-Boats on the surface.

British Air Operations

Bomber Command

Adverse weather again caused a considerable curtailment of operations last night. A small force was however, despatched to attack the Naval Dockyard, submarines, and power stations at Lorient. Only part of this force was able to locate and attack the target.

Bad weather prevented any operations being carried out today.

Coastal Command

Bombs dropped yesterday on an Island off the Coast of Norway resulted in an explosion and fire and it is thought that an ammunition dump was hit.

Bad weather interfered with patrols today. All North Sea and Norwegian coast patrols were cancelled. A/S searches and convoy escorts were carried out in the N.W. Approaches only during the forenoon; and poor results were obtained from photographic sorties.

Fighter Command

Fighter patrols were maintained during today over the Heligoland Bight.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Rescue tug SALVONIA was attacked today in the N.W. Approaches. No damage is reported.

Convoy H.X. 90 was attacked this morning by a F.W.Condor about 140 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland. In spite of defence by an escorting aircraft SS W.HENDRICK was set on fire; a tug has been sent to her.

About 1700/3 an aircraft attacked G.H. Auxiliary patrol with machine guns and shot down two balloons off Spurn Point.

Enemy attacks last night were for the most part against Bristol.

Slight damage was done in an attack on Chatham Dockyard this evening.

Mining

Enemy Mining — Mine laying by enemy aircraft took place last night off the south and south west coast and off the east coast; it is estimated that 30 aircraft were employed.

ROBRIX Mined in Humber Area — M.V.ROBRIX (292 tons) was damaged by a mine off Spurn Point this morning and was towed to Grimsby. An aircraft dropped 3 mines in the searched channel 3 miles west of the Humber L.V. about 1700 today. The Humber was closed about an hour later.

Dover Area — Special Intelligence suggested that an enemy minelaying operation was carried out last night in the Dover area. Eight mines and 2 explosive cutters were found today.

Operation G.R. — ICARUS left Dartmouth at 1820 today to R.V. with KASHMIR, KIPLING and PUNJABI from Plymouth, to lay mines off the French Coast. The operation was abandoned on account of the failure of the taut-wire gear.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Azores Patrol

CACHALOT left the Clyde this afternoon to establish a patrol off the Azores.

South Atlantic

On account of the ITAPE incident (see 1/12) coming on top of two other as yet unsettled incidents, the visit of CARNARVON CASTLE to Rio de Janeiro has been cancelled and the ship will call at Montevideo to fuel.

Mediterrancan

In pressing for a second fighter squadron at Malta, V.A.Malta says: "In view of intention to use Malta more fully for both Naval and Air Force an increase in fighter strength is an absolute necessity."

GLASGOW

GLASGOW (arrived Suda Bay 0700/2) was hit while at anchor at 1540 today by two aircraft torpedoes. The ship is in no danger of sinking and is capable of steaming and she left Suda Bay for Alexandria at 2130 today with GLOUCESTER (C.S.3) HEREWARD, and HASTY.

Air Attack on Naples

Last night, Wellingtons from Malta attacked the railway station and oil refineries at Naples. Hits were obtained on the main line near the railway station and a large fire was started at the oil refineries.

Other Air Operations

One aircraft attacked the aerodrome at Catania successfully last night. An enemy supply ship was attacked in Sarande Bay today. Blenheims today maintained a fighter patrol over Athens. Sunderlands patrolled the eastern Ionian sea.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

China

A report has been received that German SS BERGENLAND at Yokohama is being fitted with torpedo tubes and is loading large quantities of provisions.

America & West Indies

IDARWALD and RHEIN are reported to be still in the Gulf of Campeche. In view of their slow advance CARADOC has been ordered to patrol Florida Straits and DIOMEDE Yucatan Channel. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN left Bermuda today for Florida Straits.

Australia

Since the mining of SS CAMBRIDGE off Melbourne on 7/11. 12 mines have been found in the area (D.S. 455)

MOST SECRET.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

H-Class Destroyers as Convoy Escorts.

To meet U/Boat attacks on Convoys West of position where usual Local Escort in company Intend as a temporary expedient to use longer-endurance Destroyers.
4 H.Class have been sailed for this purpose.
(C.in C. W.A. 1332/3 to Adty).

Faroes. Flag of the Day to Intercepted Ships.

Adty. 1152/23/10. Do not propose to give Flag of Day to Ships thus intercepted Reasons. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1846/3 to A.C.O.S.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE.

At 1130/3. (D.C. 1134/3). At 2330/3. (D.C. 2332/3).

Plymouth. Air Decoy Proposal.

Your postagram 1123/1. Air Ministry representative cannot visit Plymouth. Adty. representative can be at your disposal a.m./5. Request your views. (D. of L.D. 1855/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Movements.

JUPITER, KIPLING, KASHMIR.

Arrived Plymouth. 1610/2. (C.in C. W.A. 0045/3).

HESPERUS, HURRICANE.

Expect arrive at daylight/4 in position given in C.in C. W.A. 1638/2. (HESPERUS 0057/3 to HAVELOCK).

EGLINTON, VANESSA.

Arrived Harwich 0936. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0941/3).

GERANIUM, JONQUIL.

Your 1320/2. Will be ready for sea a.m./9. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1020/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

VESPER, VENOMOUS.

Cin C. W.A. 1706/2. (Ships to be retained by W.A. till after operation of 18/12. Concur. (C.in C. Nore 1040/3 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

NELSON. DOUGLAS. VIMY. KEPPEL.	Intend sail for Scapa passing Oxcars Gate 1530 today. E.T.A. 0545/4. (C.in C. H.F. to C.in C. Rosyth). Sailed 1530. (C.in C. Rosyth 1539/3).
Nore.	Movements to 1200/4. (C.in C. Nore 1200/3).
Portsmouth.	Intended sailings. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1207/3 to C.in C. W.A.)
HLYSKAMICA.	Repairs completed. Sailed for Greenock today. (F.O.I.C.Glasgow 1221/3)
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.	Intend sailing for Freetown a.m./7. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1232/3).
Dover.	Patrols for night 3/4. (V.A.Dover 1236/3)
CAMPBELL VANESSA.	Sailed from Harwich 1313/3. E.T.A. Sheerness 1600. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1317/3). Arrived Sheerness 1605. (C.in C. Nore 1806/3).
MORETON BAY.	C.in C. W.A. 1632/2. Leaves Clyde at 1200/5 unescorted for South Shields. Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 1646/3).
WORCESTER QUORN.	Sailed from Harwich 1652/3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1653/3).
SCOTT.	Arrived Port SA. 1645/3. (TRELAWNEY 1701/3).
ASPHODEL CALENDULA.	Intend sail for Freetown as by C.in C. W.A. 1649/26 and 1046/1 at 1700/4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1731/3).
FORMIDABLE.	Your 1524/2. Expect sail 1800/7, anchoring Greenock before dark on 8th to embark stores and special Freight. (FORMIDABLE 1815/3 to Adty). Request Destroyer Escort from 1800/7. N.O.I.C. Belfast 1820/3 to C.in C. W.A.)
PEGASUS. VOLUNTEER.	My 1207/3. Sailed. BRANLEBAS delayed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2047/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 3.12.40. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

TARTAR. Request may be sailed for Scapa when ready. (R.A.D. 2245/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

BOUCLIER. Your 1511/3 and 1528/3. Sailed for R/V. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1959/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

OPERATIONS.

Ostend. M.T.B's, 14, 67 and 68 left Harwich at 0025. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0027/3). M.T.B.'s 14, 67, 68 arrived Harwich 0920. M.T.B. 22 arrived Harwich 0927 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0941/3).

Operation D.N. Carry out operation by ARETHUSA, AURORA, SOMALI, MASHONA, ESKIMO, BEDOUIN. (V.A.C. B,C.S. 0047/3 to C.S.2.) Ships sailed 114. (A.C.O.S. 1133/3 to Adty).

FERNIE } WITCH. } Patrol Westward tonight to cover passage of Floating Dock from Portland to Needles. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1437/3 to Adty).

KLAUS SCHOKE. Your 2328/2. Did ship use her Wireless before capture. (F.O.C.N.A. 1622/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Submarines.

SEALION. Leave patrol as by my 0955/1. (S.6.0933/3

O.15. Request she be sailed independently for Reykjavik and thence to Rothesay. (V.A.S. 1136/3).

CACHALOT. Sailed as by V.A.S. 2124/1. (S.2. 1402/3).

TAKU. To leave patrol after dark 6th and meet CUTTY SARK in 270° Trevose Head 5 miles at 0845/9. Route. (S.2. 1549/3).

CACHALOT. THUNDERBOLT. TRIBUNE. Movements. (S.2. 1554/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/4. (V.A.S. 1731/3).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 2244/30. Following patrols ordered to be flown p.m. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0340/3). Unlikely any of these Patrols will be flown today owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0938/3 to Adty.) All Air Patrols and Air Escorts cancelled today owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1246/3).

Milford Haven. Balloon Barrage. Your 1045/3. Limits of Convoy Anchorage and Approach Channel. (F.O. Milford Haven 1136/3 to Adty).

Enemy Air Activity.

SALVONIA. (Rescue Tug) Attacked by A/C in 54° 40'N., 16° 10'W. (Valentia Radio 1047/3).

Convoy HX.90. Being attacked in 56° 28'N., 10° 40'W. (HX. Convoy 1100/3) Position 56° 28'N., 11° 42'W. (HX.Convoy 1105/3). Attacked by one A/C. W. HENDRICK (British, 4360 tons) bombed and on fire. Can be salvaged. Request Tug. WILHELMINA only (British 7,135 tons) torpedoed and sunk. Position 56° 32'N., 11° 37'W. (FOLKSTONE 1201/3). (H.Q.15 Group 1930/3 to H.Q.15 Group 1930/2 to H.Q.C.C.)

Ford. Air Raid at 1200/3. Damage superficial. Estimate £20. (Supt: C.E.Portsmouth, 1745/3 to C.E. in C.)

North Sea. Indications of German Air R/C activity between Helder and Yorkshire coast between 1800 and 1900 today. (D.D.I.C. 1911/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Humber.

At about 1700/3 an A/C attacked G.H.A/P vessel with machine guns and shot down 2 balloons off Spurn Point.
(F.O. Humber, 2152/3 to Adty).

Mining.

Harwich.

Following from D.O. Walton. Coastguard Naze reports at 0117/3, 090° white flash followed by heavy explosion distant.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0120/3).

Dover Area.
See also enemy Intelligence.

No routine sweeping to 0800/3 in Q Z X 245 area swept extended to 7 cables E of line joining 1 and 4 buoys. 2 mines and 3 explosive cutters found. Q.Z.F. 26 search sweep 80% nothing found.
(V.A.Dover 1131/3).

In view of special intelligence suggesting that an enemy minelaying operation had been carried out last night a special sweep of channel past A No. 4 and Sandhead buoys was carried out near high water p.m. 3/12. Eight mines and two explosive cutters were cut between A and No.4 nuoys, thus confirming this supposition.

Operation O Y was in force last night between 2340 and 0440. Although warned that special intelligence indicated the presence of enemy vessels neither of the M.T.B's in the vicinity of number 4 and number 1 buoys saw or heard minelayers which must have passed within a few cables of them. Visibility was poor and at times not more than two cables. Dover R.D.F. was out of action.
(V.A.Dover, 1918/3 to Adty.

Operation S.N. 10.A.

1st M/L Squadron will carry out operation S.N.10.A. sailing from Port ZA at 1530/5. C.S.2 in ARETHUSA will provide ocean escort and R/V with R.A. M/L at 1730/5. REPULSE screened by 4 destroyers to cover operation. R.A.(D) H.F. is to sail 2 destroyers for Port ZA as additional screen in accordance with R.A. M/L 1635/2. (C.in C. H.F. 1226/3 to R.A.I.B.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Enemy Minelaying. Good indications enemy minelaying took place between Folkstone Gate and S. Goodwin last night.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/3 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Operation S.H. (ICARUS). My 1704/2 para.5 KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI to R/V with ICARUS in 102° Start Point 3 miles at 1900/3. (C.in C. W.A. 1324/3 to ICARUS). Your 1149/2. Repeat, Concur. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1431/3 to Adty).

Operation Z.M.E.4. Initial position 51° 23½'N., 5° 05'W., direction 119 length 7 miles. Operation to be carried out as an alternative to second part of operation, G.Q., if C.in C W.A. considers conditions unsuitable for latter.
(D.O.D.(H) 1331/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations G.Q. Z.M.E. ADVENTURE will be ready proceed for further operation G.Q. 6/12 or for a E.M.E. p.m. 5/12.
(ADVENTURE, 1436/3 1113/4 to Adty).

A.A.Lights. Adty. 1307/2. Consider dousing of A/A Lights will seriously hamper close range A/A fire against minelaying A/C and will greatly reduce chance of seeing where mines fall. Request consideration may be given to use of lights over the sea subject to angle of elevation being less than 15°. (C.in C. W.A. 1559/3 to Adty).

Humber. Closed suspected A/C minelaying. (F.O. Humber 1809/3). About 1700/3 low flying A/C dropped 3 mines in swept channel 3 miles W. of Humber L.V. (F.O. Humber 2152/3).

Operation G.R. Your 1704/2. Sailed ICARUS. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1820/3).
Taut wire failed. Am escorting ICARUS towards Tor Bay. Will then patrol to Lizard Head. (KASHMIR 2240/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

POBRIX. Motor vessel 292 (tons). Damaged by underwater explosion in 110° Spurn Point Lighthouse 2-3 miles at 1043/3. No casualties. Towed in and now in Royal Dock, Grimsby. (F.O. Humber 1838/3).

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Dangerous Area.

My 1818. Request area may be declared dangerous owing presence of enemy mines (positions). 105 and 190 Q.Z.S and 26 Q.Z.F. closed within above area. 245 QZX is superceded. (V.A.Dover 1920/3 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boat.

At 2130 machine guns posts at Shingle Street observed unidentified Motor Boat patrolling up and down 500 yards off shore until about 2200 then made off southwards.

At 2210 H.W. patrol reported suspicious motor boat to S.E. of him and Shingle Street Coastguard. One white rocket fired from surface 091° 4 miles. At 2217 H.R. reported unidentified surface craft north of him. At 2224 H.U. reported unidentified surface craft in vicinity of Aldeburgh. No flares or other pyrotechnics reported and no A/C plotted or reported.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0009/3 to C.in C.Nore).

At 0207 Infantry Observation Post near Bawdsey reported a Motor Boat heard at sea proceeding North to South. Showed a white light off Walton Point and disappeared to N.E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0255/3 and 0325/3).

At 0650 Shingle Street reports sounds of Motor-Boat heard South of Shingle Street Look-out. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0720/3).

My 0009/3. It cannot be established that any E/Boat was seen at time indicated, though indications exist of possibility of such operations. visibility was bad. (F.O.I.C. 1814/3 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy Tanker.

It is believed that a German Tanker left St. Nazaire recently, and is probably proceeding to the Westward.
(D.D.I.C. 1010/3 to F.O.C.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Scapa.
Possibility of attack from Air.

Information is reaching us from several quarters, but of course there may be nothing in it, that the Germans intend to make a concentrated air attack on the Fleet as they have recently done on towns.

Please see Adty. 2206/24, 1001/26, 1804/26, and 2323/29 to A.C.O.S. C.in C. H.F. 1517/25, 1927/27, 1107/30 and A.C.O.S's 1300/1 to Adty.
(1st S.L. 1746/3 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

BASSET. (A/S Trawler) Arrived Sheerness 1132/3 in tow. (C.in C. Nore 1241/3 to Adty).

CAMPBELTOWN. (In collision) Details of damage. 3½ weeks required in dock. No dock available at present. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1321/3 to Adty).

GULLFOSS. (Icelandic, 1414 tons). On North Goodwin. LADY BRASSEY sailed at 1141/3 to assist and returned at 1453. (V.A.Dover 1503/3 to Adty).

Rockets. Reported about 4 miles out to sea from Watergate Bay, Trevose Head at 2040. (C.in C. W.A. 2102/3 to BOUCLIER).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

E.N.36. Escort H.M.T's ELLESMERE, CAPE ARGONA, JASON. Code word Paddle, for ports Monitor Mixture. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1643/3)

F.S.51. F.N.49, F.S.52. F.S.51 and consquently F.N.53 postponed 24 hours-fog (C.in C. Rosyth 0717/3). F.S.51 is postponed 24 hours. GUILLEMOT. to escort F.N.49. and F.S.52 due Outer Dowsing 1800/4. WIDGEON to sail a.m. 5/12 to R/V before dark with F.S.51 due Sheringham Light 1630/5. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1047/3).

E.N.36. W.N.49. Sail 1500/4 and act as additional A/A escort to E.N.36 sailing at 2200/4. On meeting transfer to W.N.49 due Cape Wrath 0230/6 and Duncansby 1630/6. (C.in C. Rosyth 1115/3 to JASON).

HX.93. Ocean escort AURANIA subsequently returning to Halifax.
(R.A.3rd B.S. 1214/2) AURANIA left.
(S.O.I. Halifax 1810/3).

W.N.47. Your 1013. Fast section with CURACOA have drawn clear ahead. Slow section somewhat drawn out 30 ships including 2 stragglers. Am in station on rear of slow section. (ALYNBANK, 1343/3 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

O.B.254. Sail VESPER to join O.B.254 in position 055° 41'N., 006° 53'W at 1100/3. (C.in C. W.A. 1440/3 to N.O.I.C.Belfast)

F.N.52. Propose sailing Group 31 with F.N.52 on 6/12 to Methil for onward routing Aberdeen. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1515/3).

HX.91. Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 1456/3).

4 M.F's. My 1207/3 sailed 4 M/V's escorted by ST. CATHAN and PEARL. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/5).

HX.92. Cancel route. New route. (D.T.D.1834/3 to MONTCLARE) 1836/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 3.12.40. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

HX.89. Halifax arrival. 3/12. COMORIN from HX.89. (S.O.I. Halifax 1810/3).

S.C.13.) O.B.252.) My 1252/2. Escort meet S.C.13 as arranged. Convoy O.B.252 is not to disperse intil further orders. HAVELOCK and HARVESTER will join convoy a.m./4. Route (C.in C. W.A. 1222/3, 1522/3).

S.C.14. Route. (D.T.D. 1831/3).
O.B.256. Route. (D.T.D. 1455/3).

B.X.H.94. In view of C.O.A.C. Halifax 0950/3, B.H.X.94 will be sailed a.m./4. Ocean escort ASCANIA delayed by repairs will sail a few hours later to join convoy a.m./5.
(C.in C. A. & W.I. 1631/3 to Adty etc.)

Troop Convoys. W.S.5.A. Your 1545/2. Anticipated maximum of 8 destroyers from this command will be available. Consider at least 12 required to give reasonable security.
(C.in C. W.A. 2002/5 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DE VERDUN. — S.O.(I) Capetown 1023/28/11. Passed Gibraltar 29/11 westbound escorted. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1052/3).

PIERRE L.D., LA MARSA, GUYANE — French M.V's, passed Gibraltar eastbound 1740/3, escorted by armed trawler ASPIRANT BRUN. (D.O.R. 4/12).

Intelligence. — Following from secret source B.1. (1) Warships and Naval Units at Dakar from 17/11 to 26/11 included RICHELIEU, GEORGE LEYGUES, MONTCALM, FANTASQUE, MALIN, D'ENTRECASTEAUX, Calais five S/M's named VENGEUR, MONGE, ESPOIR, SYBILLE, PEGASE. Two Oilers GARONNE and LOT. (2) RICHELIEU under repair at her berth, two repair ships arrived recently one for submarines based on Dakar the other bringing materials and apparatus necessary for repair of RICHELIEU. According to the Chief Engineer in Charge of the work repairs to RICHELIEU will be completed by 15/12 when she can again be placed in service (3) One Submarine supposed German entered Dakar on 24/11 and sailed again same day. This Submarine was very small and of a type which made it impossible to be French. (4) Everyday one or two planes leave Kayes carrying one or two tons of gold to the North. (C.in C. S.A., 1617/3 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH. — My 1536/2 and F.O.C.N.A. 1832/1. F.O.C. N.A. requested to divert EDINBURGH towards Gibraltar to R/V with and provide ocean escort for ARGUS, JAGUAR, KELVIN and FRANCONIA which ships are to be sailed for U.K. Orders. (D.O.D.(F), 2258/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SERPA PINTO. — My 1500/2 SERPA PINTO not yet left Santos, expected to sail 4/12. Request if oil fuel available for her Freetown. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1109/3 to S.O.I. Freetown).

BERWICK. — Your 2322/1. Repairs are in hand. Effect on dockyard. Anticipated that with certain exception all items affecting fighting efficiency will be completed by 16/12. He refers to his 1852/7/8. (A.S. Gibraltar, 1702/3 to Admty.)

CACHALOT, Patrol. — CACHALOT leaves Clyde 3/12 to patrol off Ponta Delgada. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 2120/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FURIOUS, DIDO, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND, JAGUAR, KELVIN

FURIOUS, DIDO escorted by FORTUNE, FOXHOUND are to leave Freetown at 1730/3 and proceed (route) to arrive position A at 0800/11/12 B.S.T. F.O.C.N.A. requested to sail JAGUAR and KELVIN to R/V in accordance with Admty. 0046/25/11. C.in C. W.A. requested to issue onward route from A for DIDO. FURIOUS to detach FORTUNE and FOXHOUND to return to Freetown to arrive 0630/5. (C.in C. S.A. 0959N/3 to FURIOUS)
Vessels left. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1825N/3).

Operations, and FURIOUS

Report whether you consider FURIOUS carried maximum number of A/C in operation Stripe and whether any suggestion for improving arrangements for a similar operation. (D.N.A.D. 1158/3 to FURIOUS).
Your 1158/3. Suggestions for similar operation in future. (FURIOUS, 1410/3 to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.4 A.

CORNWALL, PRETORIA CASTLE arrived escorting W.S.4 A. PRETORIA CASTLE sailed for Capetown e.t.a. 0700 Z/5. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1303Z/3 to Admty.)

Wreckage.

BOSWORTH reports sighting wreckage probably from a British ship at 0630/17/11 in 002° 40' N., 016° 07' W. Consisted of wood work, hatch covers, 3 life raft and several lockers. No boats were seen.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1507 B/3 to Admty.)

A/S Vessels for Mediterranean.

My 1705/2 para. 2. Secretary for Defence informs me guarantee suggested will not meet difficulty. If conditions acceptable request authority to settle details locally in order not to delay programme. Arrangements intended will be communicated as soon as possible. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1831B/3 to Admty.)

ITAPE, removal of Germans.

Your 0111Z/2/12 and CARNARVON CASTLE 1531Z/2/12 H.M. Ambassador considers that ITAPE incident though entirely supported by him coming on top of unsettled incidents of Brazilian ships SIQUEIRA CAMPOS and BUARQUE has created unfavourable atmosphere in which VISIT of CARNARVON CASTLE were better cancelled if o other fuelling arrangements can be made. (?Proposed) to conform with policy suggested by Admiral Harwood's 1940Z/14/12 para. 2A that no visit take place immediately before or after a capture near the same coast.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1325/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

/ Your 0111Z/2. .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 0111Z/2 German Military Attache Rio de Janeiro today certainly conveyed impression to U.S. Military Attache that among Germans taken in ITAPE was a German General. Can this be verified? My records cover only 21 of men. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1655/3, to R.A.S.A.D.)

CRAGPOOL. My 1806/29 (Overdue shipping) CRAGPOOL arrived Buenos Aires 3/12. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1706/3).

CARNARVON CASTLE After transfer of prisoners QUEEN OF BERMUDA remain in K 33. CARNARVON CASTLE's visit to Rio de Janeiro cancelled. CARNARVON CASTLE is to proceed so as to enter Montevideo for 24 hours 0900 (zone plus three) 9/12. I will arrange visit. CARNARVON CASTLE is subsequently to return to K 33. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is to leave K 33 so as to enter Montevideo 16/12 as arranged. Naval Attache Rio de Janeiro send CARNARVON CASTLE's mails to Montevideo to arrive 9/12. 2330Z/3.

HERMES, DRAGON Departure 1700/3 HERMES and DRAGON on Patrol. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1823N/3).

Mediterranean.

Submarine Raids. Suggestions for. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1242/3 - docket No. P.D. 09304/40). See Med. Vol.

Greece. Operational Summary No. 21. (B.A.F.G., 1845/3 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Italy. Policy and morale. (N.A. Madrid, 1850/3, 1925/3). See Med. Vol.

MANCHESTER UTMOST. MANCHESTER is expected to leave Malta p.m./4 South of Skerki Bank and be near position 037° 40' N. 006° 30' E. at 0700 - 1 on 5/12. She has been informed that your anticipated position at that time will be 037° 45' N. 006° 15' E. on course 081 degrees. (V.A. Malta 0921/3 to UTMOST).

Submarines. Admty. 1228/29. Is it intended that the three submarines of First Flotilla are to be relieved by a further three "U" class from Fifth Flotilla or that they should be sent when URSULA, UPRIGHT and UTMOST are ready for service at Malta. (C.in C. Med., 1111/3 to Admty.)

/ Valona bombed. ...

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Valona bombed. 1. GREECE. Day 2/12. (as H.Q. B.A.F. Greece 1751/2). (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1156/3).

Enemy Intelligence. Preliminary report air reconnaissance a.m./3. (V.A. Malta, 1401/3 to Med. Fleet).

My 1401/3. Photographs show following.
West Outer Harbour one CAVOUR Battleship one large merchant vessel.
East Outer Harbour two medium merchant vessels. Three medium merchant vessels outside.
Inner Harbour, one eight inch and one 6 inch cruiser both in dock one 6 inch cruiser alongside. 5 destroyers one medium merchant vessel.
(V.A. Malta, 1835/3).

Malta Raid. Air raid alarm 1255 to 1302 on approach of enemy aircraft to 15 miles north east of Malta. 4 Hurricanes up but enemy did not cross coast. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1710/3).

Oil Fire Defence. Your 1805/28. The term Oil Fire Defence refers to the use of burning oil against landing craft. Details have been sent to you in M/L.D.01407/40.
(D. of L.D. 1816/3 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)

Taranto Attack. Italian A.N.A. informed American N.A. following result of attack on Taranto.
CAVOUR hit two torpedoes, very seriously damaged, repairs several months.
LITTORIO hit three torpedoes, not so seriously damaged. ANDREA DORIA hit one torpedo. Both ready few weeks provided nothing interferes with repairs.
Other battleships moved Port Adriatic.
Straits of Otranto heavily mined.
Attack brilliantly planned and executed but would not have been so successful if Italian force had been alert.
Italian A.N.A. was rather drunk.
Consider can accept this as fairly reliable. (N.A., Madrid, 1850/3 to D.N.I.)

370. A.O.C. Mediterranean urging Air Ministry (a) that Wellingtons if they are to continue to operate from Malta should be formed into a properly constituted unit permanently based here.
(b) that fighter force should be increased by a second squadron as soon as possible.
I most strongly support these proposals especially the latter. (Reasons).
(V.A. Malta, 1915/3 to C.in C. Med.).

/ GLASGOW ....

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

GLASGOW, torpedo air attack.

GLASGOW was hit at anchor in Suda Bay at 1540 today 3/12 by two aircraft torpedoes. Full details not yet known but ship in no danger of sinking and capable of steaming. She has been ordered to remain at Suda Bay due to bad weather forecast. (C.in C. Med., 2206/3, to Admty.)

East Indies.

Suspicious Vessel.

Following received. QQQQ CITY OF EDINBURGH 15° 29' N., 92' 01° E. being followed by suspicious vessel possibly raider now steering N. 0310 G.M.T. T.O.R. 0353. (Admiral Colombo, 0415Z/3 to Admty.) My 0415/3. Message has been cancelled. (Admiral Colombo, 0459Z/3).
CITY OF EDINBURGH in 015° 29' N., 092° 01' E. at 0310 G.M.T. 3/12 made QQQQ message. Subsequent signal show this a false report. (C.in C. E.I. 0534/3 to E.I. Squadron).

B.N.10.

Departures 2330Z/2. CARLISLE, AUCKLAND, KIMBERLEY, INDUS, CHANTALA, S/M X 2 with B.N.10. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0424Z/3).
Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Aden 0820/3)

Whalers.

Admty. 1712/20/10. Request arrangements be made for LL Whalers to fuel at Beira on passage from Durban to Mombasa. Had intended Oiler OLCADES to accompany them but anxious to get her to Mauritius as soon as possible. (C.in C. E.I. 1126Z/3 to Admty.)

DUNERA
NIEUW HOLLAND.

Your 1724/1, DUNERA, 1400 tons capacity should give 20 days endurance at average daily consumption of 70 (? tons)
NIEUW HOLLAND, 1350 tons capacity 22 days at 60 tons per day. (S.S.T.O. India, Bombay 1240Z/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

Mines.

Your 0301/24/8. Shipment of mines, including some to Singapore for Dutch authorities. (D.D.O.D.(M) to C.in C. China, 1214/3).

Shipping, Japan.

Request decision on my 0223/17/10 re withdrawal of shipping from Japanese waters. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 0257Z/3, to Admty.)

LAMOTTE PICQUET
DUMONT D'URVILLE

Saigon reports departure 3/12 Cruiser LAMOTTE PICQUET, understood to be joining Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE in Gulf of Siam near Thai frontier. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 2303Z/3, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

"Town" Class Destroyers.

St. Johns N.F. arrival 2/12 SAINT CROIX, NIAGARA, SAINT CLAIR. (S.O.I., Halifax 0901/3 to Admty.)

CARADOC
DIOMEDE

In view of slow advance of German ships, CARADOC proceed 15 knots to patrol Florida Strait about longitude of Havana. After fuelling Jamaica, DIOMEDE leave daylight 4/12 and proceed 15 knots to patrol Yucatan Channel. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1206/3, to CARADOC, DIOMEDE).

Florida Straits Patrol.

Bermuda departure. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN for Florida Straits speed 10 knots. Ordered to patrol between 8 and 20 miles 270° from north Bimini light ready to fuel Netherlands Gunnery Training Ship VAN KINSBERGEN or CARADOC when required. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1503/3).

Swedish Ship.

Intercepted Air letter G Bjorklund Buenos Aires to Stockholm Office states Swedish ship ANNIE JOHNSON scheduled to leave Buenos Aires 6/12 or 7/12 for Vladivostock. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1603/3).

PENNLAND, T.C.8.

Request you will sail PENNLAND due Kingston, Jamaica 2/12 so as to arrive Halifax not later than 12/12.
Following vessels total capacity 7,200 available for T.C.8.
PASTEUR (3,100), CAPETOWN CASTLE (1,500), PENNLAND (2,593).
In addition to BERGENSFJORD anticipate further opportunities for embarking drafts in independent sailings will occur late December. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. A.W.I., 1853/3).

In order to arrange ocean escort for next S.C. Convoy propose to cancel S.C.15 and sail these ships with S.C.16 from Halifax. Report if this will entail an undue number of ships sailing in S.C.16. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2116/3 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

New Zealand.

HOLMWOOD.

(No trace in Lloyd's). Due at Lyttelton N.Z., from the Chatham Islands on 25/11, has not arrived and must be presumed lost or captured by an enemy raider. (D.O.R. 4/12).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HANS BORNHOFEN — Required assistance at 1520 G.M.T./3, stated she was making for calm water in Kalmarsund, Sweden. (D.S. 456.)

ORINOCO. — New York Press states taking in supplies at Tampico and Captain awaiting arrival of clearance papers on 3/12. (D.S.456).

KLAUS SCHOKE (captured 2/12) — Your 2328/2 passed to F.O.C.N.A. Put armed guard on board. Do not tow ship owing to danger from submarines, but visit ship occasionally. Do you consider boiler room and engine room could be pumped out if diver and tug were sent? (D.D.O.D.(F) 0451/3 to CALIFORNIA).

CALIFORNIA's 2328/2. Can you get CALIFORNIA's prize to Gibraltar? (D.D.O.D. (F) 0455/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0451/3. Have taken off own party when they could do no more as ship entirely abandoned by Germans whom I rescued. (c) Yes provided calm enough to apply pump power externally. Main inlet cover is off and ship has no auxiliary power or pump appliances left available. Ship still floating naturally at light draught.
(CALIFORNIA, 0648/3 to Admty.)

316. Your 0455/3. CALIFORNIA's reply to your 0451/3 has not been received. Please pass this. (F.O.C.N.A. 0828/3 to Admty.)

Admiralty's 0455/3. Am sailing ENCOUNTER forthwith to stand by prize. Fleet Tug ST. DAY with naval crew will be sailed p.m. today Tuesday.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1040/3, to Admty. and CALIFORNIA).

My 1040/3 ENCOUNTER expected time of arrival at position 38° 28' N. 22° 15' W. 1900 zone minus one 5/12. Amend position to ENCOUNTER as necessary.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1540/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Your 2328/2. Did German ship KLAUS SCHOKE use her wireless before capture?
(F.O.C.N.A. 1622/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Your 1622/3 No. (CALIFORNIA, 2044/3).

My 1040/3. Fleet Tug ST. DAY sailed 1900/3 speed of advance 9 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1902/3 to CALIFORNIA, ENCOUNTER).

/ ENCOUNTER .....

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

ENCOUNTER speed 16 knots sailed 1400/3
Fleet Tug ST. DAY speed 9 knots sailed 1900/3
both for position 038° 28' N. 022° 15' W.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1951/3).

REGENSBURG
BURGENLAND

Yokohama 2/12 REGENSBURG anchored outside the harbour.
Master Greek ship reports 27/10 German ship apparently BURGENLAND being fitted with Torpedo tubes and loading large quantities of provisions.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore 08222/3, to Admty. etc.)

Tanker.

German Tanker may have left Saint Nazaire recently probably westbound.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1631/3, to S. and A. N. Atlantic).

PORTLAND.

Following from Navy Dept. From Santiago de Chile. German ship PORTLAND sailed from Coquimbo 2200/30. Destination unknown. (N.A. Washington, 1934/3, to Admty. etc.)

Your 1656Z/30. (No news of German ships for some time). Little activity since my 1715/20/9 other than reported in my 1735/13/11, 1501/26, 1732/26, and 1700/26.

MONTEVIDEO.

Present position as follows: at Rio Grande De Sul MONTEVIDEO under embargo in ballast fuel for auxiliary purposes only crew being distributed.

WINDHUK
DRESDEN
BABBITONGA

At Santos WINDHUK under embargo crew being distributed no cargo probably half fuel. DRESDEN cargo not ascertained but light, ample fuel. BABBITONGA, 4600 bales of cotton seed 400 sacks Zirconium, ample fuel.

MACEIO
BOLLWERK

At Bahia MACEIO reported expected to sail for Rio De Janeiro 168 tons tobacco 220 tons Castor seed recently received 150 tons coal from BOLLWERK but may be still short. BOLLWERK in ballast short of coal.
At Para, NORDERNEY has 250 tons coal on board 750 tons coal on deposit. No cargo awaiting 1000 tons cotton seed.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro to Cdre. S.A.D., 1605/3).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Clyde arrivals LADY MADELINE, ACTIVE with survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0821/3)

SAGUENAY
(Torpedoed 1/12)

Following damage to SAGUENAY. Description Casualties. No Officers, 21 ratings missing Five Officers and 85 ratings on board HIGHLANDER. Must part company down to-morrow Wednesday for fuel. (HIGHLANDER, 1100/3 to Admty., etc., amended 2035/3)

Your 1030/3 (No trace Admiralty) Tug ENGLISHMAN is to be detached and instructed proceed Ardrosan, to Coal. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1223/3 to HIGHLANDER)

LOCH RANZA
CONCH
FORFAR
(Torpedoed 2/12)

My 1800/2. My position course and speed 054° 47' N., 014° 46' W., 080° 5 knots. Trying to make Lough Swilly LOCH RANZA making water in No two hold and listing to starboard. Request rescue tugs. Have following survivors on board- complete crew 53 from steamship CONCH. Three officers and 18 ratings from FORFAR. Only two patterns depth charges remaining. Request instructions for LOCH RANZA and relief. Weather. (ST LAURENT 1400/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

LOCH RANZA in position 54° 57' N., 14° 46' W., at 1400 today. Course 080° speed 5 knots. ST LAURENT standing by. SALVONIA keeps constant W/T watch on 500 Kc/s. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1823/3)

Your 1400/3 Tug SALVONIA is trying to find you. Remain with LOCH RANZA who is to proceed to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 1956/3 to ST. LAURENT)

Your 1956/3. Tug THAMES assisting LOCH RANZA. Tug SEAMAN proceeding RAJAHSTAN (ST. LAURENT 2102/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

W. HENDRICK
WILHELMINA

Convoy (H.X. 90) Attacked by 1 Wolff Condor W. HENDRICK bombed and on fire. Can be salved. Request tug. Survivors on board GENTIAN. Correct 2251/2. WILHELMINA (British, 6725 tons) only torpedoed and sunk, 56.32 N., 11.37 W., (FOLKESTONE, 1201/3

/Proceed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

W. HENDRICK

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of SS W HENDRICK in position 56° 52' N., 11° 37' W., at 1201/ today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1740/3 to ASSURANCE)

Sailed tug ASSURANCE from Campeltown at 1840 in accordance with my 1740 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1933/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

Submarines Reported

2334/2 — D.F. probable U-Boat 61 to 62.30 N., 17° to 19° W., (D.D.I.C. 0033/3)

1500 — A.F. message 57° N., 17.11 W., at 1400 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1815/3)

1150 — 39.10 N., 14.10 W., at 1050 G.M.T./3 (F.O.C.N.A. 2159/3)

1459 — 54.50 N., 16.40 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 456)

2225 — N.W. of Hebrides, indefinite position of Italian U-Boat. (D.S. 456)

2046 — Between Brest and W of Ireland, indefinite position. (D.S. 456)

2145 — Abeam Cape Spartel. Reported by Officer of armed guard from French SS MES GEMEAUX which arrived Gibraltar 1245/4 (S.O.(I) Gib. 2118/4)

1638/2 — HESPERUS, CROOME, HURRICANE expect to arrive in a position mentioned in C. in C., W.A.'s 1638/2 (position where several U-Boats operating) at daylight 4/12. (HESPERUS, 0057/3 to HAVELOCK)

1400 G.M.T. — Enemy submarine 57° 1, 17° (?11) (WAIRANGI, 1400/3 to Ships, Orkneys and Shetlands, etc.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 was 70 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent at 1200/2.
1 probably Italian was 240 miles west of Lisbon at 0530/2.
2 in Bay of Biscay nearing Gironde.
1 about 56° N., 21° W. at 0205/3.
1 near Rockall.
Probably another north of 55° N.E. of 20°W.

/German.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions-Contd.

German- 1 in Cape de Verde Islands area.
1 was about 52° N., 17° W., at 0623/3, possibly bound for Lorient.
1 South of 55° N., and West of 20° W.,
1 between 54° 30' N., and 55° N., 15° W., and 17° W.
1 was in 55° 43' N., 15° 06' W., at 2126/2 probably following H.X. 90.
1 off North Coast of Ireland.
1 in area 58° N., to 59° N., 16° W., to 19° W.,
1 North of 61° N., East of 20° W.,
(D.D.I.C. 1351/3, V.A.S., 1539/3)

Submarines Attacked

KELVIN

317. My 1150/2. Report of submarine. U-Boat dived and was attacked by KELVIN who reports 18 charges dropped, air bubbles and oil seen and considers vessel was possibly sunk. (F.O.C.N.A. 0950/3 to Admty.)

(71)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation D.N. ARETHUSA, AURORA and destroyers returned to Scapa this afternoon. The sweep between Jaederens Point and Lister Light was without result.

SAGUENAY (Torpedoed 1/12) arrived in tow in Rothesay Bay today.

Submarine Hunt KASHMIR, KIPLING, JUPITER, PUNJABI left Plymouth at 1619 today to hunt for a small U-Boat believed to have been in about 49°N 11° W., at 1200 today proceeding to Lorient.

Warning to Merchant Shipping Masters of merchant ships are to be warned that warships and disguised raiders are adopting a policy of attacking without warning and defensive armament must be brought to a state of instant readiness whenever a strange vessel is sighted.

Submarines may now be encountered not only in Home Waters, but in the Atlantic east of 45° W., in the Mediterranean, Red Sea and Indian Ocean, including the Persian Gulf.

Outside these areas all possible care should be taken before opening fire on a submarine to make sure that it is an enemy submarine.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command Bad weather curtailed operations last night and the only Naval objective attacked was the dock area at Dunkirk. Weather conditions were again unsatisfactory today

Coastal Command R.C aircraft operated over the North Sea to the Faroes, from Trondheim towards Iceland, over coastal districts from the Humber to Western Approaches, and over Eire.

Blenheims today carried out several attacks on shipping off the Coast of Norway and off the Channel Ports. Results in most cases were not observed owing to bad weather.

Patrols in the central North Sea were not flown today. R.C's of the coast of Norway were flown from Stadlandet to Lister and from Lister to Horn's Reef.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Dover was attacked today. Rescue tug LADY BRASSEY was slightly damaged by a near miss. No other naval damage is reported.

A number of aircraft from Squadrons previously associated with minelaying and attacks on shipping have arrived at Sylt. This may indicate increased activity on the North East Coast.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place between 1800-2100 today in Falmouth Bay and Bristol Channel. Minelaying was carried out in the Thames Estuary last night.

Plymouth was opened at 1632 subject to local restrictions. One mine detonated spontaneously.

Tyne was opened this morning.

8 mines and 1 explosive cutter were found in the Dover area.

Milford Haven was closed this evening.

A mine, apparently moored, was sunk 2 miles off Ardnamurchan Point this morning.

HELENE Mined

Belgian trawler HELENE was mined today off Milford Haven.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Convoy Delays

C. in C., S.A. reports that the discrepancies between signalled and actual requirements of fuel and water are causing delays in convoys' programmes. The signalled requirements of Convoy W.S. 4 B were fuel oil 6,000 tons, water nil. The Amounts actually supplied to enable ship to reach Durban were fuel oil 9,200 tons, water 4,690 tons. He asks that water expenditure in transports be limited to 6 gallons per man per day; it has varied between 5 and 14 gallons per man. Rationing of water has already begun on shore at Freetown, and a 14,000 ton tanker is to be included in Convoy W.S. 5 A.

Mediterranean

B.A.F. Greece report that a destroyer reported to be shelling Greek forces from Sarande was put to flight at the sight of 2 Blenheims which secured a hit on the bow and one on the stern.

East Indies

The Indian Government have approved for 3 A/S vessels RATNAGIRI, PARVATI and NETRAVATI, to operate under the S.N.O. Red Sea.

America & West Indies

CARADOC is ordered to proceed into the Gulf of Mexico to search for IDARWALD and RHEIN. VAN KINSBERGEN is to assist CARADOC.

DESPATCH left Gibraltar this evening for A & W.I. Station.

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Possible Enemy Air Attacks on Fleet.

Information. Berthing of Ships and general arrangements should be such as to preclude as far as possible a successful attack. (1st S.L. 1539/4 to C.in C. W.A., Portsmouth, Nore, Rosyth).

Faroes. Examination of Ships.

N.O.I/C. Faeroes 1846/3. The issue of merchant ship identification signal from S.P. 02296 is considered most desirable to avoid possibility of merchant ships already examined in Faeroes being taken to Kirkwall by trawlers when boarding is impossible. The only alternative is for N.O.I/C. Faeroes to signal direct to Northern Patrol trawlers the names of ships examined in the Faeroes but as reception by trawlers of Thorshaven W/T Station is unreliable this is not recommended. Propose that examination officers should hold a copy of S.P. 02296 on board his vessel or in his office and should extract the identification signal before boarding the merchant ship. (F.O.C.N.P. 1554/4 to F.O.C.O.S.)

N.O.i/c Faroe's 1846/3. Request your remarks observing that it can be arranged for N.O.I.C. Faroes to inform you of particulars of vessels that have been examined and passed.
(F.O.C.O.S. 2006/4 to F.O.C.N.P.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/4. (D.C. 1155/4) At 2030/4 (D.C. 2044/4) At 2330/4 (D.C. 2345/4)

Shetlands. A/A Defences.

Your 1107/30. Request you send Representative to examine with Air Ministry Works Dept. your proposals for new Runways at Scatsta and Aerodrome in Unst. (5th S.L. 2030/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Movements.

KIPLING, KASHMIR, PUNJABI.

Left Plymouth 1715/3. (C.in C. W.A. 0034/4). Return to Plymouth. (C.in C. W.A. 1034/4 to KASHMIR).

NELSON, DOUGLAS, VIMY, KEPPEL.

Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0610/4 to Adty.)

Nore Command. Ships out of Action.

My 0940/2. Delete WINDSOR, HOLDERNESS, PELICAN. (C.in C. Nore 0731/4).

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Nore 0800/4).

/LA PERNELLE)
JOUBERG)....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LA PERNELLE)
JOUBERG)
Your 1629/3 and my 1526/25/11. LA PERNELLE sailed 16/11. JOUBERG expected to sail about 8/12. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1004/4 to Adty.)

PEGASUS)
VOLUNTEER)
Your 1207/3. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1030/4 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

C.S.2.
You were reported by Enemy A/C at 1030. (D.D.I.C. 1126/4 to C.S.2).

PEGASUS
VOLUNTEER
WOLVERINE
1. PEGASUS escorted by VOLUNTEER is to sail from Dartmouth for Belfast at 1600 today proceeding by route as in my 2314/2.
2. WOLVERINE is to pass Gate at 1630 and join in position 170°. Start Point 4 miles at 1800/4 and is to be detached to arrive Londonderry by 1600/6.
3. VOLUNTEER is to be detached so as to arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 1730/5. (C.in C. W.A. 1222/4).

Your 1222. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1815/4 to C.in C. W.A.).
WOLVERINE sailed 1630 as by my 1222/4. (C.in C. W.A. 1911/4 to Adty.)

FORMIDABLE.
Your 1815/3 approved. (A.C.N.S.H. 1225/4 to FORMIDABLE).
Detail 2 Destroyers to escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 1800/7 to carry out exercises A.M./8 and thence to Greenock P.M./8. (C.in C. W.A. 1638/4 to D.12). Adty. 1524/2. (Escort to Scapa to work up.) R.A.D. H.F. is to sail 3 destroyers for this duty, to arrive Greenock A.M./10. (C.in C. H.F. 1914/4).

ARETHUSA)
AURORA)
SOMALI, MASHONA)
BEDOUIN, ESKIMO)
Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1312/4).

Portsmouth.
Movements for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/4).

Dover.
Dispositions for Night 4/5. (V.A. Dover 1358/4 and 2024/4).

Rosyth.
Movements for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Rosyth 1536/4, 2332/4, and 1538/4).
Arrivals and Departures 4/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 2324/4).

SWONA)
SKUDD 3, 4, 5.)
Sailed as by Adty. 1134/22/11. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1637/10).

SKUDD 6.)
POLAR V.)
Now arrived Ardrossan. Expected ready to proceed 8/12. Request confirm destination Freetown. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1736/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

DOUGLAS)
KEPPEL) ....

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

DOUGLAS)
KEPPEL)
Sailed 1803 from Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1811/4).

ASPHODEL)
CALENDULA)
Sailed as by my 1731/3. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2143/4).

Operations.

Unidentified Surface Vessel.
Plot placed this vessel in 54° 13' N. 00° 10' E. at 2359/3 steering 324° at 12 14 knots. One ship of escort should proceed to investigate but must rejoin convoy before daylight. (C.in C. Rosyth 0146/4 to VANITY).

Am proceeding to comply. (WESTMINSTER 0245/4 to VANITY) Nothing sighted. Visibility one mile. Am rejoining. My position 54° 47' N. 1° 6' W. (WESTMINSTER 0540/4 to VANITY).

Flash off Cadgewith
Coastguard Cadgewith reports flash as of Gunfire 110° Cadgewith very distant at 0637. (C.in C. W.A. 0714/4 to KASHMIR) At 0830 my position 49° 53' N. 4° 13' W. and at 0830 was 110° Lizard Head 30 miles. Nothing seen. (KASHMIR 0902/14)

Troop embarkation in GLENGYLE, GLENROY
Your 1855/2. Request that 2 Battalions which were to be embarked at Largs be now embarked at Gourock on 6/12. (A.D.O.D. C.O. 0933/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operation D.N.
Nothing to report. (C.in C. H.F. 1707/4 to Adty.)

Iceland.
As 'LL' Sweepers are urgently required at home, it is proposed that EBOR WYKE and VARANGA be sailed without relief to Liverpool. LACENNIA and NAB WYKE will operate from Granton but will be held in readiness to proceed to Iceland if Magnetic mines are laid there. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.H. 1718/4 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Submarines.

Area A.
Cancel my 1259/2. After dark 4/12 resume patrol in areas previously ordered. (F.O.C. S/M's. 1139/4 to S/M's Area A).

Positions.
For following 24 hours at 0800/5. (V.A.S. 1721/4).

URGE.
Request Escort Barrow to Clyde 10/12. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2102/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Hatston. 815 and 825 cannot yet be considered as sufficiently trained for re-embarkation in a carrier and are at present carrying out intensive training in night flying and torpedo work. 3 aircraft are proceeding to Arbroath at a time for A.S.V. fitting. Request you will report what training these squadrons could carry out from Hatston if sent later. (B.N.A.D. 0012/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Patrols. My 2240/30. Following ordered to be flown A.M. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0300/4).
St. Kilda Patrol and Rona Patrol are being flown daily A.M. weather permitting. Particulars. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/4).
Routine A/S Patrols flown 4/12. (200 Group 1800/4 to Air Ministry).
St. Kilda and Rona Patrols will be flown throughout daylight tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2250/4).

Operation. Repeat tonight operations ordered for 53, 59, and 812 Squadrons for Night 3/4. (H.Q.C.C. 1440/4 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Liverpool. Admiralty 1307/2. F.O. i/c Liverpool, suggests that complete dousing of all A.A. lights will hamper close range A.A. fire against minelaying aircraft and reduce chances of seeing where mines fall. 2. Request consideration may be given to use of A.A. lights over sea in patrol areas during patrol subject to angle of elevation being less than 15°. (D. of L.D. 1748/4 to Air Ministry).

M/V attacked. At 1455 in 51°3' N. 2°22'E. A/C attacked one M/V. 6000 to 7000 tons moored between Moles. 4 Bombs. All missed. (Chatham 1900/4).

Enemy Air Activity.

Lowestoft. At 1507 A/C dropped 4 Bombs in water of Herring Basin and one on North Pier extension. No damage. On civilian casualty. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1543/4).

Chatham. Air Attack at 2000/3. Details of damage to Dockyard. 8 killed, 11 dangerously injured and 42 slightly. (C.in C. Nore 1616/4).

Dover. One A/C dropped 14 Bombs at 1340/4. 3 fell in Granville Dock area, 3 in harbour, and rest in town. One Naval Officer injured. (V.A. Dover 1826/4).

/ LADY BRASSEY ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

LADY BRASSEY. Will be out of action for about 3 days as result of Near Miss from Bomb while in harbour (V.A. Dover 1558/4 to Adty.)

Humber. Your 2152/3. (Attack on C.H. Auxiliary Patrol by A/C. Matter has been referred to Home Forces and Air Ministry with request that instructions be issued for guns that will bear to engage in future. (D. of L.D. 1926/4 to F.O.I.C. Humber) (D. of L.D. 1927/4 to Home Forces, Air Ministry).

Sylt. A number of A/C from Squadrons previously associated with Minelaying and attacks on shipping have arrived at Sylt. This may indicate increased activity on N.E. Coasts. (D.D.I.C. 1626/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Portsmouth. Details of damage done approx 2000/3 (Supt. C.E. 1650/4).

Mining.

Operation G.R. Your 2240 approved. Lights will be arranged. (C.in C. W.A. 0002/4 to KASHMIR).
Your 1704/2 (Op. G.R. carried out by ICARUS) returned to Dartmouth. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1000/4).
My 1704/2. Op. G.R. to be carried out night 4/5/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1050/4 to ICARUS).
Cancel my 1050/4 (C.in C. W.A. 1250/4 to ICARUS).

Oban. My 2020/3 SOUTHERN SPRAY reports mine sunk 230° Ardnamuchan Point 2 miles about 1550/3. Mine appeared to be moored. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1030/4).

JOLLY GIRLS. Mined N. of channel into Tyne at 1756/2. Consider enquiry should be held on conduct of Master, re loss of ship. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1047/4 to Admty.)
My 2311/2. Wreck in 55° 00' N., 1° 23'00"W. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1502/4).

Tyne Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1141/4).

Plymouth. Cancel my 1632/30. Port open subject to local restrictions. (C.in C. W.A. 1248/4)
Since my 1817/2 1 mine detonated spontaneously 202° Breakwater Fort 1600 yards. No vessels near. (C.in C. W.A. 1823/4).

/ Operation G.Q.2. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.G.2. — ADVENTURE to lay mines 46° 10 miles from 48° 35' N., 09° 44' W., night 6/7/12. Destroyers of 5th D.F. to be detailed later as escort. Orders re route etc. (C.in C. W.A. 1348/4 to ADVENTURE).

HELENE. — (Belgian Trawler) Mined in 51° 41' 3"W. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1624/4).

Operation J.H. — Destroyer escort will not now be available until night 7/8/12 at earliest. (C.in C. W.A. 1404/4 to Admty.)
C.in C. W.A. 1404/4. ICARUS to be sailed for Portsmouth if possible night 4/12. Will be available at discretion of C.in C. Portsmouth for repetition of operation J.H. D.D.O.D.(M), 1614/4 to C.in C. W.A.) Your 1614/4 ICARUS will sail 1800/5 e.t.a. Nab 0800/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1752/4 to Admty.)

Dover. — Routine sweeps to 0800/4. QZX 247 search sweep by 4 Oropesa Trawlers Southwest Gate to Sandhead Buoy 8 mines and 1 explosive cutter found between No. 4 and A. Buoys. (V.A. Dover, 1455/4).

Milford Haven. — Port closed, mines by enemy A/C. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1946/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat. — One in 52°15' N. 2° 5'E. (WORCESTER 0012/4).
E-Boat escaped to S.E. (WORCESTER 0039/4).

GRIEF, FALKE, WOLFE — (Enemy Destroyers) Good indications that they arrived off Boulogne at 0639 today, probably proceeding Eastwards. (V.A. Dover 1057/4 to Adty.)

1 Destroyer, 3 Flak Ships — At 0925 sighted in 58°58'N. 5°23'E. steering South. A/C report. (F.O. S/M's 1141/4 to S/M's Area A).

TALISMAN Report of 25/11 and 2/12. — At 1000/25 three Mowe class destroyers in position 220 Permen 15 ~~course~~ 290°. At 1503/25 attacked camouflaged tanker in a position 265 Permen 13 course 90° result uncertain. At 1300/2 one unidentified destroyer in position 260 Permen 20 miles course 300°. Pen Marche lit at full power on 5 nights. Daily A/S trawlers sweep but no air patrol. (TALISMAN 1201/4 to S.2).

/ Motor Ship. .....

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Motor Ship. One 6000 ton Motor Ship sighted by A/C at 1144 in 62° 8' N. 5° 5' E. steering South at 9 knots. (V.A.S. 1224/4 and 1331/4).

Sloop. Sighted by A/C at 1130 in 61°45'N. 5°5'E. steering 225° at 15 knots. (H.Q.C.C. 1130/4 and V.A.S. 1239/4).

5 M/V's. Aircraft report two merchant ships of 6000 and 2000 tons 062° 15' N. 005° 32'E. course 350° 10 knots at 1130. Also 3 merchant ships 062° 04' N. 005° 10' E. course 227° 10 knots at 1130. (V.A.S. 1304/4).

Convoy of 17 M/V's. At 1447 in 51°5' N. 2°29' E. A/C saw a Convoy of 17 M/V's and 4 E-Boats steering 065° at 6 to 8 knots. (Chatham 1900/4)

Warships. One large and several smaller Warships reported to have passed Northwards through Vattlestraum in Bergen area at 1100/1. Graded C.3. (D.D.I.C. 2200/4 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Technical.

U-Boat D/F Frequency. Experiments in s.s. BEACHY have been unsuccessful. Further experiments to be made in 2 Liverpool Destroyers on normal Escort Duty. Particulars. C.in C. W.A. to report names of Destroyers detailed. (A.C.N.S. T. 1939/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

REFAST. (British Tanker, 5189 tons) Arrived in tow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1637/4).

SUNBEAM. (Motor Boat) Delayed by engine failure towing EILEEN M. from North Goodwins. (SUNBEAM 1645/4).

DALEBY. (British, 4640 tons) Grounded in Tees mouth, north of Channel, 315° South Gare at 1945/4. Tugs failed to float and will attend again at 0600/5. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2255/4 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B.254. Sailed SANDWICH and GARLAND escorting O.B. 254. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1005/4).

H.G. 47. ROCHESTER arrived with H.G.47. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1125/4).

W.N. 48. CUROCOA left Scapa 1204/4 for W.N.48. (A.C.O.S. 1235/4).

H.X.90. Request obtain all available information from Commodores and Masters with regard to attacks on Convoy. Forward reports to Admty. and C.in C. W.A. (C.in C. W.A. 1254/4 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Arrived ROCKLEY, JERSEY, HANNINGTON COURT, ALVARO, CORBIS. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1715/4).

My 1254/4. Request Capts. D. may be associated with these enquiries from point of view of any escorts present at these attacks. (C.in C. W.A. 1930/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Clyde arrival GENTIAN with 64 survivors of H.X.90.
Intend sailing her Liverpool 1200/5.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1945/4).

F.S.52. My 2158/3. Humber still closed. HOLM and WINDSOR referred to in my 1730/3 and 1537/3 will not now join F.S.52. (C.in C. Rosyth 1509/4).

4 M.V's, ST. CATHAN, (Br. 565 tons) PEARL. (Br. 678 tons) Your 1410/3 and C. in C. Portsmouth 1917/3. 4 M.V's and ST. CATHAN, PEARL arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1136/4).

POUYER QUERTIER, SCHELDT (Br. 497 tons) My 1257/4. Sailed (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1735/4).

O.B. 256. Route. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1225/4).

S.C.14. My 1116/2 for FORFAR read SALOPIAN. Escorts have been informed of your movements. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1603/4, to PORPOISE).

Positions. Ocean convoys at 0900/4, p.c. and s. (D.T.D., 1352/4 to C.in C. H.F.).

H.X. and S.C. Escorts. Cancel instructions in my 1801/11/3/40 and substitute -
H.X. and S.C. ocean escorts returning to base are to part company 24 hours before arrival at R.V. (D.T.D., 1923/4 to R.A.3 and C.O.A.C. Halifax).

C.W.19. Route. (C.in C. Nore to B.C.S.O. Thames, BERKELEY, CLEVELAND, ACACIA, 1816/4).

/LORD ESSENDEN, ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

LORD ESSENDEN, VICTRIX	My 1137/4 (re sailing A/S Trawlers LORD ESSENDEN, VICTRIX escorting 4 M/V's) sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1750/4).
6 M.V's	Intend sailing 1800/5 for St. Helena Roads 6 M/V's including 2 tankers and 2 H.M. Balloon vessels escorted by BOUCLIER and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE e.t.a. QZS 0815/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).
H.X.88.	On time at R.V., all ships except DIPLOMAT (straggler) torpedoed and sank and PARTNIA, sunk in collision in North Channel. (D.T.D. 1719/4).
H.X. 87.	On time at R.V. 7 stragglers due to continuous gales. All now arrived except CHARLES F. MEYER (straggler) damaged by torpedo (D.T.D. 1720/4).
H.X.93. S.H.X.93.	Sailing telegram. Escorts AURANIA B.H.X., MALOJA, S.H.X., ELK and HICKY. (N.S. Dockyard, Halifax, 1118/4) Greek ELENI sailed with W/T sealed (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1300/4).
S.C.13.	Estimated position at 1600. (C.in C. W.A., 1630/4, to WELLINGTON).
H.X.91.	Your 1116/4. Expect to arrive R.V. 2300 G.M.T./6. PACIFIC, SPAR, ELENI, AROSA straggled and not informed of changed route. (REVENGE to A.C.W.A., 1746/4).
E.N.36.	H.M.T's ELLESMERE and CAPE ARCONA. Additional escort JASON. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2231/4).
O.B.C. 254.	Sailed. Escort HEARTSEASE, BLYSKAWICA, CHEVREUIL. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2110/4).
U/B and Air Attack, Precautions.	Admiralty 1146/4/6, 1858/29/8 and A.M.S.I.183 cancelled and following substituted:- With reference to D.M.S. Part I (B.R. 136(1) Article 53, it is now considered clear that in submarine and air operations the enemy has adopted a policy of attacking merchant ships without warning. Warships and disguised raiders are acting in a similar manner and Masters of ships must be on the alert and the defensive armament brought to a state of instant readiness whenever a strange vessel is sighted. In opening fire Masters should be guided by the instructions contained in sub-paragraph (b) of the above article, and as regards E boats by the special instructions contained in A.M. 1720/24/11.

/ Following .....

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME C[illegible]ANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

U/B and Air Attack, Precautions. (Contd.)

Following footnote to be added to Article quoted.
N.B. At present it is considered that enemy submarines may be encountered in Home Waters, in the Atlantic to the east of 45° W, in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Indian Ocean including the Persian Gulf. Outside these areas all possible care should be taken before opening fire on a submarine to make sure that it is an enemy submarine. (Head of(M) 2102/4 to "A" Message H and A.)

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

MARECHAL JOFFRE. (French M/V, 11732 tons) Repatriation.

Shortly leaving Indo China for France via Madagascar should be intercepted and taken into British Port. On arrival cargo should be reported to Admty. and ship detained pending instructions (Hd. of M. 1552/4 to C.in C. China).
Your 1845/30/11. Regret safe conduct cannot be granted. Against our policy to allow troops or foodstuffs to enter Vichy Colonies. May also be Free French Troops on board being taken to France for trial and internment. (Hd. of M. 1555/4 to N.A. Madrid).

ILE DE FRANCE. (French M/V, 43450 tons) Repatriation.

My 0531/30/11. Amend arrival to read 26/12, due altered itinerary since departure Singapore. (R.A. Malaya, 0515/4 to Adty).

VILLE DE VERDUN.

S.O.(I) Capetown 1023/28 and S.O.(I) Gib. 1052/3. If VILLE DE VERDUN intercepte without escort she should be sent in to a British Port.
(D.E.W.D. 1128/4 to C.in C. S.A.)

French ship VILLE DE VERDUN passed Straits of Gibraltar Westbound 29/11 believed bound for Madagascar. If encountered and not escorted she is to be sent in to a British Port.
(C.in C. S.A. 2013/4 to NEWCASTLE, HERMES, DRAGON, FURIOUS, DIDO).

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH.

My 0540/4 (to EDINBURGH) and Adty. 2258/3. R/V with DESPATCH, ARGUS, Motor A/S Boat 24 escorted by FORESTER, VELOX, ECLIPSE, (position at 0900 zone - 1 on 6/12. Onward route, from R/V through (position) thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. KELVIN and JAGUAR will join later and relieve local escort. DESPATCH will part company when you join.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1054/4 to EDINBURGH amended by F.O.C.N.A. 1524/4.)
Admty. 1349/4. Proceed to Gibraltar report E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1638/4 to EDINBURGH)

DESPATCH.

Gibraltar departure 1800/4 e.t.a. Bermuda 0600 (zone + 4) 13/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1802/4 to C.in C. A. & W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARK ROYAL. — My 1020/30.(Minor defects ARK ROYAL.) ARK ROYAL now at normal notice for steam. (S.O.(I) Force H. 0600/4).

KELVIN. JAGUAR. — My 0552/4. (not to Adty) KELVIN, JAGUAR return at best speed. (F.O.C.N.A. 0900/4).

South Atlantic.

ROSS. (Br. 4978 tons) CLAN MACWHIRTER. (Br. 5941 tons) — Cancel my 1105/2. Arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0935/4).

FURIOUS. DIDO. — Adty. 2258/3, 0046/25/11, 1531/25/11, C.in C. W.A. 2138/27/11 and my 0959/3. Request information as to arrangements for escort FURIOUS and DIDO from latitude Gib. to 304 since JAGUAR and KELVIN appear to be no longer available. Adty. 2258/3. (C.in C. S.A. 1153/4 to Adty).

EDINBURGH. FURIOUS. DIDO. Etc. — C.in C. South Atlantic 0959/3 and my 2258/3 neither to all addressees. In order to economise escorts, EDINBURGH, FURIOUS, DIDO, ARGUS, FRANCONIA, KELVIN and JAGUAR are to proceed to U.K. in company. FURIOUS to Liverpool, EDINBURGH and DIDO to Scapa, ARGUS and FRANCONIA to Clyde. My 2258/3 is to be amended accordingly. (D.O.D.(F) 1349/4 to C.in C's S.A. W.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

Water Rationing. — Your 1941/1/12. This water tanker will be of great assistance. It had already been decided to ask for a tanker to bring water from Takoradi during the dry season and it is proposed that the tanker with WS5A shall be retained for this purpose. Water situation will otherwise be acute later. Rationing has already begun on shore. (C. in C. S.A. 1345/4 to Adty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoys, Fuel and Water.

Your 1756/27/11 gave requirements of convoy W.S.4.B. at Freetown as fuel oil 6,000 tons, water Nil. The amounts actually supplied to enable ships to reach Durban with a margin of two days were fuel oil 9,200 tons, water 4,690 tons. With such discrepancy between signalled and actual requirements it is impossible to avoid delays. Water expenditure per day in the various transports varied between 5 and 14 gallons per man. Request measure to (a) give a more accurate forecast of requirements (b) limit expenditure of water in transports to 6 gallons per man per day.
(C.in C. S.A. 2009/4 to Adty).

Mediterranean.

Malta. Air Report.

Sunderland reconnaissance, and Swordfish A/S patrol. No other operations due to weather. No enemy air activity. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/4).

Proposed Operation.

For Force H. and aircraft from ARK ROYAL C.in C. Med. 1548/18 and Adty. 1558/28. Observations. (S.O. Force H, 1801/4). See Med. Vol.

C.S.3. Glasgow.

My 2205/3. At 2300. C.S.3. reported he was returning to Alexandria, GLASGOW in company, speed 16 knots. (C.in C. Med. 0849/4).

Spezzia Docks.

My 1835/3. Ref. plan in C.B.1712. Spezzia No.6 dock has been lengthened and and now holds 8-inch gun cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1131/4).

EAGLE. Cruisers. Fast minesweepers.

Situation referred to in Adty 1917/24/11 has raised certain considerations. (C.in C. Med. 1959/4 to Adty). See Med.Vol.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mine.

Floating mine reported in an Italian broadcast 13 miles E. of Pantellaria. (D.5. 457).

Movements.
A.N.8.
A.S.6.
A.N.9.

Summary 173. Convoy A.N.8. escorted VOYAGER and VENDETTA, Left (position) for Laso Straits and Piraeus. CALCUTTA left A.N.8. to meet A.S.6. and will leave A.S.6. south of Kaso Straits to rejoin A.N.8. GLOUCESTER meets YORK 1200/5 to cover convoy. DEFENDER escorting A.N.9 leaves a.m./5 for Suda Bay. ILEX leaves Alexandria to meet DEFENDER 1200/6. (C.in C. Med. 2247/4).

Enemy Air Targets from Malta.

Your 1501/30. Signal was addressed to V.A. Malta as connecting link with A.O.C. Mediterranean vide additional signal 1752/26. The change in policy to that in para.7(a) of your 2015/22/8 was realised and considered justifiable in present circumstances. Final decision however is left to you.
(1st S.L. 0002/4, to C.in C. Med.)

UPRIGHT.
CHAMPOLLIN.

UPRIGHT has nothing of interest to report in area North of Palermo. CHAMPOLLIN and one other French liner sighted off Ustica bound for Bonifacio. No major defects. Will be ready for patrol (date)
(N.O.I.C. Malta. 1135/4 to C.in C. Med.)

UPHOLDER.
USK.
UNIQUE.

Your 1111/3. The three Submarines from 1st Flotilla will be relieved by UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE from 5th Flotilla.
(D.O.D.(H) 1222/4 to C.in C. Med.)

Supply Ship Bombed.

Operational Summary No.177 up to 1200/4. Greece. Day 3/12. 3 Blenheims dive-bombed enemy supply ship in Sarande Bay all bombs falling 50 yards astern, 1 Blenheim also machine gunned ship damaged unobserved.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1338/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RATNAGIRI.
PARVATI.
NETRAVATI.

Adty. 1732/28.Government of India have approved three A/S vessels to operate under S.N.O. Red Sea. Ships selected RATNAGIRI,PARVATI,NETRAVATI date they will be ready to proceed will be reported as soon as possible.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0504Z/4 amended 2230Z/5).

W.S.4.B.
Escort.

My 1154 30/11. Para.2. Cancel and substitute: CORNWALL and KANIMBLA will escort to position G then proceed to Aden. Para.6. Cancel last sentence and substitute SHROPSHIRE will escort to position W (See para.9) and then proceed to Aden. DEVONSHIRE will escort until relieved by SOUTHAMPTON. SOUTHAMPTON will escort to position W and then proceed Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 0720Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

B.S.9½.

Request ANTENOR be sailed to give cover to B.S.9½ ships proceeding Bombay. ANTENOR should arrive 017° N., 070° E., at dusk thence proceed Colombo through 008° N., 064° E., to arrive a.m. 14/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 0738Z/4 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

U.S.8.

Your 2142/30/11 para. 2. As transhipment of troops at Trincomalee will apparently be a regular practice request urgent consideration may be given to proposal in para.3. of my 1254/22/11. Application for use of tug SIR CUTHRIE RUSSEL for forthcoming operation has already been made but no answer yet received. Fuel and water requirements can be met. Re military Embarkation staff.
(C.in C. E.I. 0744/4 to Adty).

Guns at
Diego Suarez.

Your 0704/25, my 1143/23, para.two (q), for 380 mm. guns read 80 mm. guns. Number not known but further information may be obtainable later.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0904B/4 to C.in C.E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

TEDDY.

Master of British ship HAIYANG reports on 3/12 in position 005° 30'N., 082° 05'E., he passed through patch of fuel oil ¼ mile long, breadth unmentioned. Having previously passed through another and smaller patch near by. This might be cargo of Norwegian tanker TEDDY vide S.O.(I) Singapore 0145/22/11 rather than of OLE JACOB in view of Capt:O.S. Singapore 0348/14. No wreckage seen. (C.in C. E.I. 1152/4).

OROPESA. (Br. M/V 14118 tons).

Your 2203/22. OROPESA did not call Aden for water as water was conserved. Master's report shows that even then consumption was considerably above minimum regulation allowance. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1251/4 to D. of S.T.)

Air Escort.

Operational Summary No. 175 for 24 hours ending 1500 4/12. 6 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter escort 3 for convoy B.N.10 and 3 for B.S.9½. 1 returning aircraft reconnoitred Assab Harbour 0740 - no shipping changes. No casualties all times G.M.T. (A.H.Q.Aden 1742/4).

B.S.10.

Convoy sailing telegram. Escorts GRIMSBY, CLIVE. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1719/4).

HERMES. DRAGON.

Admty. 1917/24/11. HERMES and DRAGON sailed Freetown 3/12 proceeding to St. Helena by way of neighbourhood Ascension, carrying out air search south of lat. 005 degrees south. Then operate St. Helena area until (date) when will refuel and replenish aviation spirit at St.Helena subsequently operating Western side edge St. Helena Cape route. (C.in C. S.A., 1905N/4 to Adty).

B.S.10.

Departure GRIMSBY 0630/4 with B.S.10. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2203/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Dutch Staff Talks.

For Chiefs of Staff from C.in C. Far East and C.in C. China. In continuation of our 01412/28, following is report of Staff conversations with Officers of Dutch East Indies on 26/11 to 29/11.
(C.in C. China, 02412/4) See Operations Vol.

Far East Policy.

Your 1003/23/11. C.O.S. Far East appreciation memo (4) 592 was forwarded with Admiralty Letter M.017692/40 of 8/9 per H.M.T. BRITANNIC to Capetown thence per S.S. ISIPINGO to Colombo arriving there 10/11 (Approx). Captain in Charge, Ceylon has been asked by wire re method of onward despatch. C.O.S. memo 40 (605) was forwarded with Admiralty Letter M/P.D. 09175/40 of 30th/10 per S.S. ADRASTUS bound for Shanghai and due Capetown 1/12. Copies Nos. 1-6 of tactical appreciation of Malaya, referred to in your 0253Z of 19/10 have been received. No message 0911Z of 1/11 and no copies of Singapore Conference report yet received. Only Telegraphic Summary of report Parts 1-10 as contained in your 1031Z/31/10.
(Hd. of M. 2008/4 to C.in C.China).

America and West Indies.

U.S.Bases.

Question of security in connection with U.S.labour. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1133/4).

CARADOC. VAN KINSBERGEN.

CARADOC proceed to arrive in 024° 00'N., 055° 50'W., by 0700 R/5. Netherland Gunnery Training Ship VAN KINSBERGEN R/V with CARADOC at above time if IDARWALD not intercepted 4/12. CARADOC should then take VAN KINSBERGEN under her orders and endeavour to intercept enemy ships.
(C.in C. N. & W.I. 1221/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MORMACWREN.

U.S.Ship MORMACWREN from South America Port to Boston called at Bermuda 26/11. Had on board several hundred bags of Coffee from Theodor Wille of Santos Brazil (W T L Black List) for U.S.A. Request instructions whether goods consigned to or from firms on Black List should be removed at Bermuda from U.S. ships bound between North and South Ameria.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/4 to Adty).

"Town Class" Destroyers.

Reference 1615/29/11 S.O. Halifax Force. SAINT CROIX, NIAGARA, SAINT CLAIR. Expected time of arrival Point B. 1130 G.M.T. 10/12. Admiralty pass to C.in C. W.A. (N.O.I.C. St.Johns N.F. 1639/4 to to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

My 1639/4. Destroyers sailed from St. John's N.F. 1530 G.M.T. today.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's 2021/4).

PENNLAND.

D. of S.T. 1853/3. Request amount of refrigerator cargo space for cured meats and ordinary cargo space which will be available in PENNLAND. Full number of 2593 personnel will be embarked at Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa. 1126/4 to N.O.I.C. Kingston).

Australia.

Mined Area.

A danger area of 30 miles radius has been declared off Cape Otway. (D.S.457).

Your 0829/28. Para? (2) of D.S.T's 2117/2. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA will require at least four days to coal, clean ship and embark troops. She cannot therefore sail before (date). Not possible to say whether she can be fitted additional accommodation until inspected on arrival. In these circumstances and to avoid appropriating AWATEA (which is required for transport of Australian and New Zealand reinforcements for Fiji) suggest sailing from Wellington be fixed for (date).
(N.Z.N.B., 0129Z/4, to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND. — Arrived Talcahuano this morning. (Puffin, Callao, 0905/4). (N.A, Santiago de Chile, 1000/4) (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1108/4).

RHEIN
IDARWALD. — Positions at 1200 Z plus 5 and 1400 Z plus 5, 3/12. (C.in C. A & W I 1951/4 to CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE etc.)

NORBURG. — Left for Russia. (Macrae, Galatz, 1140/4).

GERMANIA
CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN
MADRID. — Your 1800/29. Am unable to ascertain reason for GERMANIA's arrival at Las Palmas but vessel has been moved to stern of German Oil Tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and is being refuelled. Informed ship is loaded with gasoline estimated quantity 13000 tons. Provisioning of MADRID continues including large quantities of fresh meat and vegetables.
(Consul Las Palmas 1745/4 to Adty).

KLAUS SCHOKE.
(Captured 2/12). — My 0648/3. Position is less favourable. Details. Have 3 officers and 9 ratings on board who have knowledge of ship and work done to remain as navigating party. All Germans removed. Must stand by ship until arrival of ENCOUNTER and cannot make R/V ordered by V.A.N.P's 1414/2.
(CALIFORNIA, 2004/4 to F.O.C.N.A., V.A.N.P)

Following is a repetition of my 1005/4. Ref: 1540/3 from F.O.C.N.A. position at 2000/3 038° 15'N., 022° 12'W., with tendency to drift westward. Prize will show white all round light (ends) Amended by my 1451/4 giving position 037° 57'N., 022° 21'W., drifting 200 degrees one knot.
(CALIFORNIA 2314/4 to F.O.C.N.A. ENCOUNTER).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FRANCO MARTELLI.

Your 1220/3. It is confirmed that cargo was paid for yesterday. The guard was removed in afternoon but local formalities for final release are not yet complete. (Consul, Pernambuco 1004/4 to N.A., Rio de Janeiro.)

Port Limon.

N.A.Washington 1824/29 Port Limon supplies to Italian ships over the normal for requirements of crews.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1221/4 to Adty).

AEQUITAS.

My 1535/9 and my 1550/20. I earnestly advise that passage of Italian AEQUITAS which passed Pernambuco 2/12 southbound under Brazilian escort is not interfered with in any way by us.
(N.A.Rio de Janeiro 1728/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)

VITTORIO VENETO.
INEZ CORRADO.

Bahia Blanca reports VITTORIO VENETO with 6,500 tons wheat on board commenced unloading today at the rate of 300 tons per diem delivery to Merixe Hermanos.
When she has finished INEZ CORRADO 7,366 tons wheat will do likewise.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1301/4 to Cdre. S.A.D. etc.)

French Merchant Ships.

MINERVA.

Master of ANNEBERG (Finnish) received instructions from charterers agent Trapp & Co., Newcastle on Tyne deliver cargo to French Consul Las Palmas. MINERVA now alongside ANNEBERG transhipping parts of cargo. Understand 2 other French Trawlers will come from Casablanca to load rest of cargo.
(Consul, Las Palmas. 1340/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WILHELMINA. (torpedoed 2/12). — 34 survivors landed Greenock. 5 are missing. (D.5. 457).

H.X.90. — Clyde arrival GENTAIN with 64 survivors of H.X.90. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1945/4).

STIRLINGSHIRE
VICTOR ROSS
(torpedoed 2/12). — STIRLINGSHIRE torpedoed in 055 42' N., 016° 13' west, at 1734/2 and VICTOR ROSS torpedoed in 056° 04' N., 018° 30'W., at 0853/2 may still be afloat. Investigate and report.
(C.in C. W.A., 0114/4 to HURRICANE, HESPERUS).

VICTOR ROSS. — Proceed with despatch to assistance of S.S. VICTOR ROSS in position 56° 04' N., 18° 30'W. at 0752/2.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0950/4 to ENGLISHMAN)

Sailed tug ENGLISHMAN from Ardrossan at 1324 in accordance with my 0950/4.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/4).

Your 0114. Am searching for STIRLINGSHIRE HURRICANE in company. Shall be unable to reach position of VICTOR ROSS during daylight today in present conditions. Weather report:
(HESPERUS, 1030/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

SAGUENAY (torpedoed 1/12).
RAJAHSTAN (torpedoed 2/12). — On passing Mull of Kintyre one trawler is to continue escorting SCHELDE and SAGUENAY to Barrow in Furness. The other two are to proceed to Londonderry to refuel and then to escort RAJAHSTAN with SEAMAN and Tug THAMES position course and speed at 0001/4 was 054° 50'N., 015° 10'W 080° 3 knots.
(C.in C. W.A. 0132/4 to FOXTROT).

Following received F.O.I.C. Greenock from SCHELDE. Have anchored SAGUENAY in Rothesay Bay and am connecting; propose proceeding Barrow in Furness 0400 tomorrow. Out -- view threatening weather, suggest second tug be sent from Holyhead or Campbeltown immediately to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/4 to Adty. etc.)

AMSTERDAM. — Your 1550/ . Rescue tug AMSTERDAM will be sailed from Holyhead to your assistance.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1949/4 to SCHELDE, amended 2340/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

SAGUENAY, details of attack.

Attack on SAGUENAY while escorting H.G.47 1/12. Disposition of escorts, HIGHLANDER day position O for A.S.V., ROCHESTER astern. SAGUENAY having been stationed in day position P had lost touch and was on post quarter of convoy. Convoy speed 7 knots, no zig-zag. 0350 visibility 2 miles, SAGUENAY speed 12 knots sig-sagging was hit right forward port side. U/Boat fired red bombette which broke into three green stars very shortly before SAGUENAY was hit. U/Boat was then sighted red 120 about 1,000 yards from SAGUENAY who fired two rounds at it. First round may have hit. SAGUENAY had been keeping listening watch only and heard nothing. Probable approach of U/Boat was from port quarter, and because no other ships were attacked he probably retired the way he had come. Information from SAGUENAY is hearsay from Officer of the watch and other officers, and should be confirmed by C.O. Recommend that A/S transmitting at night should be re-instituted forthwith. (Capt: D. Liverpool, 1901/4, to Adty).

LOCH RANZA. (torpedoed 2/12).

Report situation and your position. THAMES has LOCH RANZA in tow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0910/4 to SALVONIA).

LOCH RANZA CONCH. (torpedoed 2/12).

Your 0825/4. (No trace in W.R.) Tug THAMES has made contact with LOCH RANZA Proceed forthwith to carry out search for CONCH in position 55° 40'N., 19° 00'W., at 0645/2 and VICTOR ROSS in position 56° 04'N., 18° 30'W. at 0752/2 SUPERMAN also searching. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1150/4, to SALVONIA).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2145/3. O. 1/c armed guard in French schooner LES GENEAUX reports having sighted U-boat at 2145/3 off Spartel steering due West, graded A.2. (F.O.C.N.A., 1717/4, S.O.I. Gib., 2118/4).

2029. D.F. very unreliable fix 47.30 N. to 48.30 N., 09.00 W. to 10.30 W. (C.in C. W.A., 2106/4 to KASHMIR, amended 2258/4).

1209 Small U/B believed about 49° N., 11° W., proceeding to Lorient, speed 8 to 12 knots. Orders to CACHALOT, THUNDERBOLT, TRIBUNE for destruction of U/B. (C.in C. W.A., 1450/4 amended 2038/4 to KASHMIR, KIPLING, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER for information, KASHMIR to cancel operation if weather unsuitable.)

Tangier. Tangier reports 2100/4 both Italian U-boats still in harbour. (S.O.I., Gib., 2118/4).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian
1 about 250 miles West of Lisbon 1200/3
1 off Portugal Northbound.
3 in N.W. Approaches one of these in vicinity of Rosemary Bank one about 56° N. 21° W. at 0205/3.

German
No news of the one in Cape De Verde area
1 about 49° N. 11° W. bound for Lorient 1 about 51° N. 11° W. outward bound.
1 south of 55° N. West of 20° W.
1 in about 54° 50' N. 16° 40' W. at 1459/3
1 in 57° N. 17° 10' W. at 1500/3 may have moved a little South.
1 in about 56° N. 14° W. at 1007/3
1 in about 56° 30' N. 10° 40' W. at 1448/3
1 may be patrolling about 150 miles south of Iceland.
(D.D.I.C. 1316/4).

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

RODNEY

RODNEY left Scapa this morning escorted by 4 destroyers to cover homecoming Halifax convoys. A/S air escort was provided.

Convoy C.W.19 Shelled

Enemy Coastal batteries fired 101 rounds at Convoy C.W. 19 this evening. Five fell in Dover harbour, causing one slight naval casualty.

Concentration of Enemy M/V's off Wilhelmshaven.

Aircraft on reconnaissance sighted at least 50 merchant vessels off Wilhelmshaven apparently sailing. These ships may be sheltering and in view of the unfavourable weather forecast it is considered very improbable that these ships constitute an immediate threat, but air reconnaissance has been ordered for dawn tomorrow. "Deluge" signal in all areas at 1130 and 2330 today was 3.

U-Boat hunt

KASHMIR, JUPITER, KIPLING and PUNJABI returned to Plymouth at 1345 today.

Ships in Distress

Four or five ships are in distress due to heavy weather.

Shortage of M.A/S.B's at Plymouth

Only 3 of the 8 vessels of the 3rd M.A./S.B Flotilla at Plymouth remain effective. This is not sufficient to deal with the E-Boat attacks on merchant vessels, and C. in C., W.A. asks that a further flotilla may be sent to him if possible.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Blenheims last night attacked docks and shipping at Calais, Ostend and Antwerp.

Coastal Command

A Sunderland left Sullom Voe at 0300 today to reconnoitre Narvik but returned on account of bad weather. Aircraft in the N.W. Approaches were recalled during the afternoon.

Five aircraft made individual attacks today on shipping off the German coast and off the Norwegian coast, but only in one instance is it thought that a possible hit was obtained on a ship.

This morning Blenheims successfully attacked the Naval docks and power station at Lorient.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

THISTLE Damaged

Examination vessel THISTLE was damaged by attack at Lowestoft this evening.

M/S Trawlers off Dover

2 aircraft dropped bombs near M/S Trawlers off Dover this afternoon. No damage resulted.

Attack on Portsmouth CAMERON Destroyed

Portsmouth was attacked this evening. CAMERON (Town Class destroyer) was hit in No 8 dock and it is thought she will be a total loss. Some damage was caused to Clarence Yard, VERNON and DOLPHIN, and there were some casualties.

Mining

One or two enemy aircraft were minelaying off the Harwich-Clacton area between 2100/4 and 0100/5. Minelaying last night also took place off the S.W. Coast.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Plymouth.

The Humber was opened early this morning

Milford Haven was opened about noon subject to local restrictions.

Operation S.N. 10.A.

R.A.M.L. with 4 minelayers escorted by 4 destroyers left Port Z.A. at 1530 to lay mines in Denmark Strait. REPULSE with 4 destroyers left Scapa at 1735/5 as cover escort. ARETHUSA from Scapa provided escort.

Swedish Waters

N.A.Stockholm reports that a Swedish fishing vessel was mined on 6/11 off North SKagen and three others at the southern end of German declared area since then. On 1/12 Danish fishing vessel VICTORIA was sunk off South Skagen.

Bomber Command aircraft laid mines successfully last night off an enemy occupied harbour.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD sailed today to patrol off the Azores.

German SS KLAUS SCHOKE sank today.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE
Action with Raider

CARNARVON CASTLE was in action at 0800 today with a merchant ship raider using complete director system which escaped behind smoke at 0910 and was last seen at 1400 G.M.T. in position 31° 0' S., 43° 15' W (500 miles South of Rio de Janeiro) steering 40° at 19 knots.

CARNARVON CASTLE is proceeding to Montevideo to make good extensive damage. She has fired 500 rounds and estimates at least 10 hits on the enemy and that the raider, which had two serious fires, was considerably damaged.

CARNARVON CASTLE was hit 23 times and will have to undergo dockyard refit before being fit for further service.

Mediterranean

British Naval and Military Missions in Turkey are to be established as soon as the consent of the Turkish Govt. has been obtained.

China

OLE JACOB

The Norwegian tanker OLE JACOB, which made a raider distress message at 1347/10/11 arrived at Kobe today flying the German flag with a German prize crew on board.

America & West Indies

"Town"
Destroyers

The remaining 6 U.S. Destroyers, hitherto manned by R,C.N. care and maintenance parties were commissioned today by R.N. crews- SALISBURY, NEWMARKET, RICHMOND, NEWARK, WELLS, NEWPORT.

/Australia.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia

SS NIMBIN (1052 tons) was sunk today between Newcastle and Sydney, near the Coast. The survivors are convinced that the explosion was external.

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Northern Patrol. A/S Trawlers.

Your 2006/4 and VANP. 1554/4. Examination Vessel not yet ready. If essential, propose A/S Trawlers attached to Faeroes be supplied with Key Memoranda. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0930/5 to A.C.O.S.)

Administration of Cruisers.

As from 6/12 all cruisers in Home Waters are placed under the administration of C.in C. H.F. Provision of cruisers for other Home Commands will be made as follows when it is necessary to station them in the South for anti- invasion or other duties:

A. Either the 2nd or 15th C.S., or part of them, will be placed under the temporary operational control of C.in C. Nore and stationed at either the Nore or the Humber.

B. Either the 10th or 18th C.S., or part of them will be placed under the temporary operational Control of C.in C. W.A. and stationed at Plymouth or Clyde.

C. Adty. will give instructions regarding the number of cruisers to be detailed in accordance with A and B.

D. C.in C. H.F. will order reliefs as necessary.
(1st S.L. 1400/5 to C's in C.)

Aircraft at Hatston.

Re training of 816 and 825 Squadrons. (C.in C. H.F. 1539/5 to Adty).

Possible Air Attack on Fleet.

Your 1223/3. Disposition of German A/C able to carry torpedoes is as follows. (D.D.I.C. 1800/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

Your 1746/3. Can particulars be given of any known form of floating flare which might be dropped by aircraft to illuminate anchorage. (C.in C. H.F. 1913/5 to Adty).

Western Approaches. Further A/S Vessels requested.

Of third M A/S B Flotilla only three remain effective, three are undergoing large repairs and remaining two have defects which will take four weeks. This is not sufficient to deal with the E/Boat attacks on Merchant Vessels and a further allocation, if possible of a Flotilla is requested.
(C.in C. W.A. 1852/5 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/5. (D.C. 1140/5). At 2330/5. (D.C. 2352/5).

M/V's Off. Wilhelmshavn.

At least 50 M/V's reported by A/C off Wilhelmshavn at 0853 today apparently sailing. In view of weather, unlikely to constitute an immediate threat. H.Q.C.C. requested to confirm this by R/C at dawn tomorrow. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2016/5 to C's in C.)

Movements.

RODNEY.

One Battleship or HOOD is to be sailed as soon as practicable to cover incoming Halifax Convoy. Ship will not enter Halifax. (1st S.L. 0122/5 to C.in C. H.F).

RODNEY screened by 4 Destroyers to sail at 0830/5 towards Halifax. Route to 60° N, 25° W., whence Destroyers are to return to Scapa at best speed. Request A/S air Escort as far to Westward as possible. (C.in C. H.F. 0344/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).

A/S Escort is being provided by 1 Hudson which will be relieved by another Hudson about 1230. (C.in C. Rosyth 0854/5 to RODNEY).

Sailed at 0900 RODNEY with ESCAPADE, BRILLIANT, BEAGLE, and SIKH. (A.C.O.S. 1006/5).

RODNEY to R/V with Convoy HX.93, escort Convoy homeward to about 25° W., and then part company and proceed to Scapa. C.in C. H.F. requested to arrange A/S Escort accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 1652/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

KASHMIR, KIPLING, JUPITER, PUNJABI.

Sailed 1619/4 from Plymouth. (C.in C. W.A. 0152/5).

Nore Command. Ships out of Action.

My 0940/2/12. Amend as follows. (C.in C. Nore 0736/5).

DOUGLAS, KEPPEL.

Arrived Port ZA. 0845/5. (TRELAWNEY 0853/5 to R.A.D. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

FRANKLIN. — Sailed Yarmouth with A/T IRVANA at 0850. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0900/5).

JACKAL. — Arrived Humber 0915/5. (F.O.Humber 0924/5).

DUNEDIN. — Is at 4 hours Notice for full power until 1600/6. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1239/5).

Dover. — Dispositions for night 5/6. (V.A.Dover 1258/5).

Portsmouth. — Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1447/5).

FORMIDABLE. BEVERLEY. BURNHAM. — Cancel my 1638/4. BEVERLEY, BURNHAM are to escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 1800/7 to carry out Flying exercises a.m./8 thence proceeding Greenock. On conclusion FORMIDABLE is to detach BEVERLEY to Liverpool, BURNHAM to Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A. 1510/5 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

SHELDRAKE. FRANKLIN. — Arrived Harwich 1509/5. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1514/5).

Orkneys. — Movements for night 5/6 (A.C.O.S. 1541/5).

WIDGEON. — My position at 1720, 53° 9'N., 1° 14'E. proceeding down Q.Z.S.40. (WIDGEON 1722/5 to EGRET).

ASHANTI. FAME. — Your 1146. (completion dates). ASHANTI 5 to 6 months. FAME 9 to 10 months. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1731/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

KENYA. — C.in C. W.A. 1129/5. Request you defer sailing KENYA till after arrival of NIGERIA at Scapa and transfer of flag. (V.C.N.S. 1843/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

GLENGYLE.
GLENROY. } My 0933/4. Date of embarkation at Gourock is now either p.m./7 or a.m./8. (A.D.O.D. C.O. 1159/5 to F.O.I.C.Glasgow)

BERKELEY. VANOC, FERNIE, WITHERINGTON will be patrolling south of Convoy Route. Try to locate them by A.S.V. and record result. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1417/5 to BERKELEY).

VANOC
FERNIE
WITHERINGTON. } Will patrol to South of Convoy Route to-night between Owers and Royal Sovereign returning Portsmouth at daylight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1427/5 to Adty).

Operation MONSOON. Cancel my 1531/25. (Re-fit of FURIOUS) (D.O.D.H. 1851/5). My 1349/4. FURIOUS will carry out repeat of operation STRIPE to be known as MONSOON. FURIOUS to be ready to sail by (date). (D.O.D. H. 1852/5 to C.in C. W.A.) See Operation Vol

Iceland. CHITRAL arrived and sailed 2200 G.M.T. LETITIA arrived 2230 G.M.T. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2301/5 to V.A.N.P.)

Dover Shelled. Batteries at Calais, Wissant, and Gris Nez fired 101 rounds at C.W.19 between 1806 and 2011, of which 5 fell in Dover Harbour. One Naval Rating slightly wounded. No other casualties or damage reported. (V.A.Dover 2044/5).

Submarines.

UPHOLDER
USK
UNIQUE. S.5. is to sail UPHOLDER 10/12 and USK and UNIQUE 11/12 for Gibraltar. Route. (V.A.S. 1258/5).

URGE. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2102/4. P.C.74 is to arrive Barrow p.m./9 to escort URGE to Clyde 10/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1316/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

My 2102/4. URGE delayed until 11/12. Request Escort may arrive Barrow 0830/10. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

SUNFISH. Leave patrol at 1800/7. Route to Gap A. (S.6 1555/5).

WHITE BEAR. Expected time of arrival Holy Loch 1200/8. (S.9. 1619/5).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/6. (V.A.S. 1649/5).

SEALION. Arriving Blyth 1305. (SEALION 1850/5).

TALISMAN. Arrived. (F.O. Greenock 2140/5 to Adty).

British Air Activity.

Reconnaissance of Narvik. Sunderland left Sullom Voe at 0300. (C.in C. Rosyth 0334/5).

Patrols. My 2244/30. Following Patrols ordered today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0548/4).
2 A/S Patrols carried out. (200 Group 1730/5 to Air Ministry).

Operation SPECIMEN. Three aircraft are at Aldergrove and will move to Sydenham Belfast tomorrow.
One aircraft is unserviceable, and spare aircraft is being flown to Sydenham from Donibristle tomorrow Friday.
(R.A.N.A.S. 1658/5 to Adty).

Calais. Docks and shipping attacked on Night 4/5. (H.Q.B.C. 1707/5).

Rosyth. My A.169/21/10. Rosyth Area now reverts to normal Defended Area conditions.
(H.Q.F.C. 1910/5 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Marchwood. Air-Raid Night 1/2. Damage about £3000 Details. (Supt:C.E.Portsmouth 1015/5).

C.W. Convoy. Being shadowed by 1 aircraft in 51° 18'N., 1° 13'E. (BERKELEY 1530/5).

Lowestoft. At 1823 aircraft dropped about 18 bombs in and near Hamilton Dock and machine-gunned P.W.S.S. Few civilian casualties. Examination Vessel THISTLE damaged. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1905/5).

Dover. 2 aircraft dropped bombs near M/S Trawlers off Dover at 1450 today. No damage (V.A.Dover 2044/5).

Air Raid on Portsmouth. Air Raid on Portsmouth 1814 - 2030 Following damage to Admiralty property so far known. VERNON damage.29 Casualties. Direct hit by H.E.Bomb on CAMERON in No.8 Dock. Vessel seriously damaged and oil fuel burning. Some casualties. Clarence Yard fire. Minor damage in DOLPHIN. Suspected U.X.B's at Eastney and Dockyard. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2200/5).

Mining.

Humber. Open. (F.O. Humber 0522/5).

Ardnamurchan Point. Your 2118/4. My 2020/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock reads as follows. Master of Northern Lighthouses Vessel HESPERUS states Moored Mine ~~behind~~ believed German sighted 1000/3 about 2 miles W. of Ardnamurchan Point. Fired 400 rounds S.A.A. but mine did not sink. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1000/5 to Adty).

Operation G.G.2. Your 1348/4. Intend to lay from 48° 33'N., 9° 44'W., as in Adty. 1013/26, not 48° 35' as in your 1348/4. (ADVENTURE 1125/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 1348/4, para.6. Add after 6° W, keeping to N. of 47° 45' N., (C.in C. W.A. 1216/5 to S.O. 5th D.F.)

Milford Haven. Open, subject to local restriction. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1205/5).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

PORT NAPIER. As board of Inquiry has not elucidated nature of Explosions causing loss of ship, consider investigation desirable. Assistance of experts necessary. (R.A.M.L. 1259/5 to Adty).

S.N.10A. Departed Port ZA at 1530/5, R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BATH, KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, ST. ALBANS. (TRELAWNEY 1532/5 to Adty). REPULSE with SOMALI MASHONA, ESKIMO, BEDOUIN left Scapa 1735/5 as cover escort (A.C.O.S. 1805/5).

Thames Estuary. Explosions and Fireworks seen during night 4/5. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1545/5 to C.in C. Nore).

ICARUS. C.in C. W.A. 1812/4. Sailed to anchor in Brixham Roads. She will weigh 2300/5. Expected time of arrival Nab 0815/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1801/5 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

M/V's Mined off Skagen. Your 1301/3.
(1) One Swedish fishing vessel mined North Skagen 6/11. 3 others southern end of German declared area since then.

(2) On 1/12 Danish fishing boat VICTORIA sunk off (? Valinby) South Skagen due to pear-shaped mine. (N.A. Stockholm 1052/5 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

German Torpedo A/C. Your 1223/3. Disposition of German A/C capable of carrying torpedoes is as follows. (D.D.I.C. 1800/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

M/V's off Wilhelmshavn. Aircraft report at 0853 today at least 50 M/V's off Wilhelmshaven apparently sailing. (A.C.N.S.H. 2016/5 to C's in C.)

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Laying-up Reports.

Request you will call for a short report from all cruisers, destroyers and sloops now under your command under the following headings and covering the period 1/8 to 1/12.

(a) Name of Commanding Officer or Officers.

(b) Periods, giving dates, during which ship has been laid up for any cause other than enemy action, excluding routine boiler cleaning.

(c) The reason for the ship being laid up in each of the periods given in (b).
(1st S.L. 0123/5 to C.in C. H.F. Portsmouth, Nore, W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

EXYAHNE. (M/S Trawler) Rescue Tug NORMAN sailed 0825/5 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0848/5 to Adty).

TAYGETOS. (Greek 5687 tons). Want immediate assistance. (TAYGETOS 0929/5). Position at 0919 about 540 9'N., 120 40'W. (C.in C. W.A. 0954/5 to WELLINGTON).

HEARTSEASE. Asdic out of action. E.T.A.Londonderry 1330. (HEARTSEASE 1040/5 to C.in C.W.A.)

SALTWICK. (British 3775 tons) Steering gear broken in 570 10'N., 260 30'W. (Valentia Radio 1324/5). Require immediate assistance. (SALTWICK 2017/5 to Adty).

M.L.125. Screw disabled. Being towed by VINCIA into Ramsgate. (BERKELEY 1537/5 to C.in C. Nore). Arrived (N.O.I.C.Ramsgate 1715/5 to Adty.)

AGHIA EIRINI. (Greek 4330 Tons). Steering gear broken. Want help at once. (Valentia Radio 1708/5). Main Engine broken too. (Valentia 1726/5). Position 52° 21'N., 23° 40'W. at 1658. (Port Patrick Radio, Recd. 1921/5)

LADY BERYL. (A/S Trawler) Collided on 4/12 with Middle Pier at Granton. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1737/5 to Adty).

SALVONIA. (Tug) Arrived Campbeltown with Engine defects (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2158/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

SOUTHERN STAR. (A/S Trawler) Has returned to Belfast with D/G defects. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 2330/5 to N.O.I.C.Oban).

EMPIRE THUNDER. (British, 5965 Tons). Main Engine disabled in 59° 9'N., 14° 40'W. Strong gale. Require immediate assistance. (EMPIRE THUNDER 2343/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PORT NAPIER.

As board of enquiry has not elucidated nature of heavy explosions resulting in the total loss of PORT NAPIER consider investigation desirable. Part of vessel is still above water and some evidence therefore remains. Assistance of experts is necessary.
(R.A.M.L. 1259/5).

STANBURN.

Keep a good look out for STANBURN estimated position at 1200/5 055° 10'N., 012° 12'W last heard of steering 080 degrees at about three knots CALENDULA or ASPHODEL report position if sighted.
(C.in C. W.A. 1311/5).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
Estimated Positions 0900/5	(D.T.D. to C. in C.,HF., 1401/5)
O.B. 252	Hove to (position) O.B. 252 scattered by gale yesterday and have lost touch with Commodore and HARVESTER during night. Oil fuel tank split and leaking. (HAVELOCK, 0945/5)
O.G. 46	Gibraltar arrival 0700/5. DEPTFORD, WISHART ERON and HAARLEM escorting O.G. 46. (S.O.I. Gib., 0952/5)
E.N. 37 } W.N. 50 }	GLEANER to act as additional A/A escort. Code words "Might" and "Mutual" (C. in C., Rosyth, 1025/5) Details (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1612/5)
O.B. 254	Sailed VESPER at 0700/5 to comply with C. in C., W.A., 1440/3. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1032/5) Amended route. (C. in C., W.A. 1540/5 to GARLAND, SANDWICH, etc.,) 2000/5)
S.L. 56	My 1414/2, delete CALIFORNIA. Orders to CALIFORNIA (F.O.C.N.P., 1254/5, 2200/5)
6 M.V's	My 2236/4. Escort will be VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE (N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, 1300/5)
H.X. 90 B.	FOLKESTONE, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER arrived with H.X. 90 B. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1555/5)
H.X. 93	RODNEY to R.V. and escort to about 25° W. (D.O.D. (H) 1652/5 to C. in C., H.F.)
W.N. 50 0	Code "Limited" Escort unappropriated. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1901/5)
S.L. 56 } S.L. 57 }	Situation report at 1200/5. (D.O.D. (F) to CACHALOT, 2235/5) Orders to BULOLO and CANTON (C. in C., S.A., 1905/5- see South Atlantic)
S.L. 58	KENT to escort (C. in C., S.A. 1905/5- see South Atlantic)
H.X. 94	RAJPUTANA as ocean escort, returning to Halifax. Corvettes WINDFLOWER and TRILLIUM will also sail with H.X. 98 and to Clyde. (B.S. 3. 1759/5)

/F.S. 54.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys-Contd		Shipping
F.S. 54		Sailing Methil 1400/6. Expected to exceed 50 large ships. Hunt class destroyers to be sailed to meet between Outer Dowsing and Flamborough and act as additional escort to Sheerness. WOLFHOUND will continue S.O. of Escort. (C. in C., Nore 1830/5, to F.O.I.C. Harwich)
H.G. 48		Your 1128/4. Commodore should be privately instructed not to delay H.G. 48 to keep METTIE in company. (D.T.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1158/5)
S.C. 15		CILICIA leaves Clyde in O.B. 255 p.m./6, to act as ocean escort to S.C. 15 in about 44° W., (V.A.N.P., 1222/5 to CILICIA)
H.X. 93		Cancel route after B.H.X. junction and proceed as follows. RODNEY should meet you in about 40° W., When met AURANIA is to return to base. (D.O.D. (H) 1651/5 to AURANIA)
B.H.X. 94		Arrival ALAUNIA. Departure in accordance with my 1631/3 heavy ocean escort B.H.X. 94 returning St. John' N.B. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1043/5)
GUDRUN MAERSK		Admty 1157/15/11. Routes required for GUDRUN MAERSK, Oban for Capetown, speed 13 knots (N.C.S.O.Methil, 1020/5)
Spanish and Portuguese Ships		Trading to U.S.A. (See America and West Indies)
SATURNUS		Swedish tanker. Cable instructions received from Swedish F.O. (N.C.S.O. New York, to Admty. 1844/5)
Troop Convoys		
W.S. 5 A.		Provisional embarkation arrangements. (D. of S.T., 0800/5) In order that T.L.C's can be embarked and ships ready to sail (date) following movements of M.T. ships should take place as soon as they have completed loading. (D.O.D. (H) 1200/5 to C. in C., W.A. F.O.I.C. Cardiff)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys-Contd	**Shipping**
F.S. 54	Sailing Methil 1400/6. Expected to exceed 50 large ships. Hunt class destroyers to be sailed to meet between Outer Dowsing and Flamborough and act as additional escort to Sheerness. WOLFHOUND will continue S.O. of Escort. (C. in C., Nore 1830/5, to F.O.I.C. Harwich)
H.G. 48	Your 1128/4. Commodore should be privately instructed not to delay H.G. 48 to keep NETTIE in company. (D.T.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1158/5)
S.C. 15	CILICIA leaves Clyde in O.B. 255 p.m./6, to act as ocean escort to S.C. 15 in about 44° W., (V.A.N.P., 1222/5 to CILICIA)
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MOST SECRET.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

MARECHAL JOFFRE. Your 1552/4 and 1622/4 and my 0345/5. Please see my 0313/21. I am still of opinion it would be very much to our disadvantage to provoke French naval forces in Indo China into taking retaliatory action against our shipping in China Sea. Suggest therefore that interception should not take place on China Station. (C.in C. China, 04412/5, to Admty.)

CHARLES PLUMIER. Officers and crew of French CHARLES PLUMIER refuse to navigate ship to U.K. Possible that crew might be provided here but this would presumably entail seizing ship and cargo at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1210/5 to Admty.)

Policy re French Merchant Vessels. Request confirmation that following is the policy at present in force regarding French Merchant Vessels. Escorted convoys. The policy of stopping occasional French escorted convoys laid down in Adty. 2327/19/10 has been modified. The interception of these convoys is only to be carried out when ordered vide Adty. 2110/19/11 para.(A). French territorial waters may be infringed. Unescorted ships. All unescorted ships except those about which special instructions have been received, are when encountered by our warships outside territorial waters to have an armed guard on board. Such ships will be diverted to U.K. if possible, otherwise to Gibraltar. When owing to weather or other circumstances it is not possible to place an armed guard on board, ships are if practicable to be escorted to U.K. preferably, otherwise Gibraltar. If French force subsequently disputes possession of ship under British escort she is to be surrendered unless British force present is overwhelmingly superior in which case action is to be taken as Adty. 2327/19/10 para. 4 last sentence but British are not to fire first shot. (F.O.C.N.A. 1224/5 to Admty.)

CUBA
INDO CHINOIS
ANNE DE BRETAGNE

Admty. 2326/11 and my 2053/18/11. Merchant seamen volunteers and men ex CUBA INDO CHINOIS and ANNE DE BRETAGNE have now volunteered to serve with Free French Forces in West Africa to man the French merchant vessels now in Free French Ports including Casamance, Baoule and Adrar. Propose to send these to Duala at first opportunity and not to U.K. (C.in C. S.A., 1617/5 to Admty., amended 1201/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ARGUS, Operation White.

When will report of Board of Enquiry ordered in A.M. 1915/20 reach Admty.? (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 0217/5)
Your 0217. Will be despatched in ARGUS, no earlier opportunity. (F.O.C.N.A. 1030/5).

Las Palmas, Germans.

2 German passenger aircraft arrived here 3/12 brought number of Germans. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1625/5).

RENOWN, docking.

My 2128/30. Necessary for ship to be at 24 hours' notice on one shaft to complete refitting of bearing.
RENOWN is now seven months out of dock and requires bottom cleaning, speed being reduced by about one knot.
Ship can be docked without delaying BERWICK 4 days after receipt of Adty. approval.
In view of detachment of SHEFFIELD and as there are no known commitments in immediate future present time seems appropriate to improve steaming capabilities. (S.O. Force H, 1411/5 to Admty.)

Your 1411/5. Approved to prepare dock. Further signal follows. (D.O.D. (F) 2037/5) Cancel my 2037/5. (1 S.L., 0155/6).

ARK ROYAL.

Intend ARK ROYAL and screen proceed to sea A.M./9 for 48 hours for flying training. (S.O. Force H. 1501/5 to Admty.)

SHEFFIELD
Azores Patrol.

SHEFFIELD is to be sailed A.M./5 to carry out Azores Patrol in accordance with A.T. 1615/27/10.
Ship is to be informed of A.T. 1633/1 and V.A.S. 2124/1. (1 S.L. 0014/5 to F.O. Force H).
Gibraltar departure 1500/5 SHEFFIELD in accordance with Admty. 0014/5.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1516/5).

PALMELLA, O.G.46.

Intercepted Message indicates that Spanish S.S. NAVEMAR has picked up 28 survivors of British Ship PALMELLA (OG.46) and expects to arrive Lisbon P.M./10.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2102/5).
PALMELLA said to have sunk after an internal explosion, no time or position given. (D.S. 458.)

RAMILLIES
ECLIPSE
EDINBURGH

RAMILLIES and ECLIPSE are to be sailed for U.K. in company with other ships named. C.in C. H.F. requested to order destination of ECLIPSE. Further instructions will be issued as to destination of RAMILLIES. Anticipated she will be docked on arrival.
EDINBURGH is to proceed forthwith to Scapa without calling at Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(F) 2222/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action with Raider.

CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201Z/5 is repeated to you. Have received no earlier report. Have you any information?
(C.in C. S.A., 2001/5, to Admty.)

Heading for Montevideo.

Request permission be obtained for ship to spend 48 hours in Monte Video to make necessary repairs for seaworthiness. Pending your instructions I am heading for Monte Video.
(CARNARVON CASTLE 1415/5 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Position of Raider.

CARNARVON CASTLE was in action with Raider who was last seen at 1400 G.M.T./5 in position 031° 00' South 043° 15' West, Course 040 degs. 19 knots. (Cdre. S.A.D. 1621Z/5, to Admty., C.in C. S.A., and QUEEN OF BERMUDA). Position about 500 miles south of Rio de Janeiro.

R.V. with ENTERPRISE.

Your 1201Z/5. R/V with ENTERPRISE in position 033°30' S. 049°25'W. at 1000 G.M.T. /6. (R.A.S.A.D. 1629/5, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Damage.

My 0201/5. Casualties are 5 ratings dead, 3 officers wounded including one seriously; 5 ratings seriously wounded, 24 slightly. CARNARVON CASTLE hit twice on waterline and several holes above waterline. Two compartments flooded and considerable damage elsewhere.
Raider (description). Very similar to ELLA RSSBERGER. (CARNARVON CASTLE, 1740Z/5, to R.A.S.A.D.)

Montevideo arrangements.

Following from CARNARVON CASTLE (begins). Requests permission to be obtained for Ship to spend 48 hours in Montevideo to make necessary repairs for sea worthiness (ends). Request you will make necessary arrangements. (C.in C. S.A., 2015/5, to N.A. Buenos Aires).

My 2015/5, proceed to Montevideo.
(C.in C. S.A., 2023/5, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

To R.V. ENTERPRISE.

Act in accordance with R.A.S.A.Ds' 1629/Z/5. (Re CARNARVON CASTLE to R.V. with ENTERPRISE). (C.in C. S.A., 2335, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

CUMBERLAND.

Adjust speed so as to arrive in position 030° S. 040° W. as early as possible consistent with having 50% fuel remaining on arrival there.
(R.A.S.A.D., 2301Z/5, to CUMBERLAND).

/ DORSETSHIRE defects. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

DORSETSHIRE defects. DORSETSHIRE 1915/2(defective propeller shaft). Examination by divers has not revealed cause. Essential to dock the ship. Arrangements being made to undock ASTURIAS a.m./6 and to dock DORSETSHIRE a.m./8. Time required for DORSETSHIRE in dock uncertain. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 0955B/5).

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. My 1232/3. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE sailing for Freetown). Request route for DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. (P.O.I.C. Belfast 1044/5 to Adty.)

Trawlers. Simonstown arrivals. SOTRA, SVANA, SARNA, SOIKA. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1003Z/5, to Admty.)

NORSEMAN. Cable ship, now proceeding 7° 49' S. 34° 42' W. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1349Z/5).

ENGLISH TRADER, damaged. ENGLISH TRADER reports Rudder carried away position 022° 08' N. 021° 20' W. at 0200/5. Suggest ocean going tug from Saint Vincent to assist. Only Warship available at Freetown BRIDGEWATER.
(C.in C. S.A., 1025/5 to Admty. etc.)

Your 1025 M/5. No Ocean going tug available St. Vincent. Have asked Portuguese Authorities here to send Port Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1705/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

My 1705/5. Can get no definite reply from Portuguese authorities but consider improbable that they will allow Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO to assist. No other vessel.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 2250/5 to C.in C. S.A.).

Oiler for Hunting Forces. Oiler LARISTAN originally sent to fuel whalecatcher is being retained at St. Helena during operations of Force L. Though Force L will not be operating after December it is considered very desirable that for the present and whilst policy and operation detailed in Admty. 1917/24/11 and 0036/25/11 are continuing an Oiler shall be kept at St. Helena to provide another fuelling centre for forces that may be in the neighbourhood with particular reference to "D" Class cruisers.
Requested that an R.F.A. Oiler with oiling at sea gear and some aviation spirit as well as fuel be made available to relieve LARISTAN as convenient or alternatively that LARISTAN be retained as long as required. (C.in C. S.A., 1615/5 to Admty.)

/ RESOLUTION ....

MOST SECRET.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

RESOLUTION
VINDICTIVE
FORTUNE

RESOLUTION, VINDICTIVE escorted by FORTUNE proceed at 1000/6 through position (1) 011° 30' N. 020° 00' W. (2) 014° 00' N. 020° 40' W. (3) 029° 00' N. 020° 00' W. (4) 035° 40' N. 007° 40' W. thence to Gibraltar speed of advance 10 knots. (C.in C. S.A. 1621/5.)

ASTURIAS

Delayed at Simonstown (date). (C.in C. S.A. 1903/5 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BULOLO,
CANTON,
KENT,
Convoys.

Your 0143/30/11 BULOLO and CANTON ocean escorts to S.L. 56 and 57 at present on passage have instructions to remain in a lane in the centre of the convoy unless weather conditions render this undesirable when ship is to proceed independently. KENT sails as escort to convoy S.L. 58. Request may be informed of any special orders regarding route and escort, after ocean duties are completed. (C.in C. S.A. 1905/5 to Admty.)

CANTON,
ARAWA,
ALCANTARA,
MORTON BAY
MOOLTAN.

Your 2005/22 and my 2252/29. In view of following forecast of dates when A.M.Cs may resume service, do you still wish CANTON to fit catapult on completion of present duty or would you prefer to defer this work under February? Expected completion Dates for ARAWA, ALCANTARA, MORETON BAY, MOOLTAN. (D.O.D.(F) 2224/5, to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Turkey.

Decided to establish British Naval and Military Missions in Turkey as soon as consent of Turkish Govt. obtained. You will be appointed Head of British Naval Mission when formed. Outline of policy. (1st S.L. 0259/5 to N.A. Ankara for Admiral Kelly). See Mediterranean Vol.

Roumanian Ships.

Reply to N.A. Angora's 1225/28 from Ministry of Shipping. Would welcome any means of getting these vessels out of Black Sea. (D.T.D. 1201/5 to N.A.Angora).

TRUANT.

Operation B.8. Orders for patrol. (Capt: S.1. 1555/5 to TRUANT).

Personnel.

Your 2245/24. Urgency of dilution of personnel. Details. (D.P.S. 1618/5 to C.in C. Med.)

Convoy A.N.9.

Date and route. Escorts. DEFENDER from Port Said, ILEX from Alexandria. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1244/5).

French S/M, Beyrout.

My 0859/2 (1001/2 intended?) Third French S/M has now returned. (Consul Gen, Beyrout to Admty. 1915/5).

Cable Communication.

In view of para.1 and 2 of F.O. Force H's 1629/1 it appears prospects of successfully carrying out this work in winter are slender. Far too heavy a programme of operations in prospect to be able to spare support. (C.in C. Med. 0031/5 to Adty).

830 Squadron Policy.

Your 2327/4.(Calling for 1305/23 refered to in 1501/30). Following is a repetition of my 1301/27 which is message referred to in my 1501/30. (begins). V.A.Malta 818 repeated R.A.(A) Med. A.O.C. Med. from C.in C. Med. I should like following policy to govern employment of 830 squadron. 2. (a)-Primary duties should be dusk or night attacks on warships (? or) merchant vessels at sea priority being given to Libyan Convoys passing to West of Malta. (b) Opportunity should be seized to attack shipping concentrations in harbour. (c) Priority should be given to seaches and location of targets suitable for attack, by the squadron before routine patrol or anti-submarine

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

830 Squadron Policy. (Contd.)

duty. 3. Operations on above lines should start now and mining operations against Tripoli as soon as consider practicable. (Ends).
(C.in C. Med. 1015/5 to Adty).

Italian Destroyer Attacked.

Operational Summary No.22. At Mid-day 4/12 30 Squadron provided 2 Blenheims to attack destroyer reported to be shelling Greek Forces (? from) Sarande. Destroyer put to flight at sight of our aircraft by 2 hits one bows one stern.
(B.A.F. Greece 1835/5).

East Indies.

SOUTHAMPTON Joining El Station.

Request you will sail SOUTHAMPTON to Mombasa with all convenient despatch early a.m./7. Pass Guardafui in darkness and reconnoitre Mogadishu evening 9/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 0634Z/5, to S.N.O.Red Sea).

GERMANIA.

Your 9033 4/12. There are two tankers GERMANIA. One, a German, last reported at Las Palmas, 1/12 but may have recently sailed for unknown destination. The other a Norwegian has recently changed her name to INDIA. Latter sailed for Bahrein 2/12 for Capetown.
(C.in C. E.I., 0726Z/5, to M.I.C.E.)

U.S.7.

Colombo arrival 0850Z/5 PERTH and CAPETOWN escorting convoy U.S.7.
(S.O.I. Colombo 0936Z/5).

S.W.3.

SHROPSHIRE escorting S.W.3. arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1126Z/5).

U.S.8.

A.M. 0301/29 and 2142/30. Request names of on-carrying transports for (a) Colombo (b) Trincomalee. Suggested dates of arrival.
(C.in C. E.I. 1130/5, to P.S.T.O. India).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

OLE JACOB.

Reporting Officer Kobe reports Norwegian Tanker OLE JACOB arrived 5/12 flying German flag with German prize crew on board. She appears to have full cargo of oil.
(S.O.I. Shanghai, 1103Z/5. to C.in C. China) (Raider distress message from OLE JACOB was received on 10/11 in a position approx. 480' E., of Ceylon).

Kuang Chow Wan Trading Policy.

Governor, Hong Kong's telegram 782 to Colonial Office. As Kuang Chow Wan is under Japanese control, I have treated it in same way as Indo China. If urgently necessary to avoid a shortage of rice at Hong Kong, I have no objection to Kuang Chow Wan being used as an exchange port, provided goods sent there are not challenged export license. I have no doubt Admiral Decoux is anxious to re-establish trade on his conditions but firm basis of my policy is no discrimation against British ships in Indo-China ports.
(C.in C. China, 1407Z/5 to Adty).

America and West Indies.

EUGENA CAMBANI.

British URLA reports she is proceeding to St. John's N.F. with crew of EUGENA CAMBANI. (Greek 3470 tons), which was in Convoy S.C.13 with lumber. Ship is presumed to have foundered on 28/11. (D.O.R. 5/12). My 1733/2. KATHARISTISS BERN HARD and URLA arrived at St. John's N.F. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1640/5 to Adty.)

A.M.C. Escorts.

Admty. 0217/28. Allowing 2 ships refitting 17 A.M.C's would be required for H.X. and B.H.X. Convoys and 3 for S.C.Convoys, total 20.
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1052/5 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

ALAUNIA. — Arrival. ALAUNIA. Departure in accordance with my 1631/3 heavy ocean escort B.H.X.94 returning St. John N.B. (date).
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1043/5, to Adty).

"Town Class" Destroyers. — Halifax 5/12. Departures, RAMSEY, READING, RIPLEY.
(S.O.I. Halifax 1355/5).

BARON YARBOROUGH. — My 2119/3.(Piston broken but proceeding under own steam). BARON YARBOROUGH arrive at St. Johns N.F. 3/12.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1456/5).

PRINCE ROBERT. — In view of increased activity of German ships National Service Headquarters has agreed that you remain on South American Coast for the present. Fuelling arrangements, BISHOPDALE. Immediately after fuelling resume patrol off Callao with minimum possible delay.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1832/5 to PRINCE ROBERT.)

Spanish, Portuguese Ships to U.S.A. — Your 1302/28/11. In accordance with policy of Navicert system, Portuguese and Spanish ships trading with U.S.A. and holding ship Navicerts are exempt from intermediate calls for control unless permitted to carry mails in which case they are required to call at Bermuda where mails are to be landed for examination. Without delaying ships advantage should be taken of such calls to ascertain as far as possible that cargoes agree with manifests and no un-manifested cargo is carried. Passengers in such ships will have been approved by British Authorities at port of departure so need not be examined unless special grounds for suspicion exist.
(D.E.W.D. 2048/5 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

AQUITANIA. — Your 2117/2. AQUITANIA. In time available work has been put in hand to fit additional 400 to 500.
(A.C.N.B. 0332Z/5 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

Suspicious Ships.

WAIPAWA reports following sighted:-
(a) Vessel resembling number 99 WAKAMA in O.U.63 29 (i) with grey hull red funnel black top in position 010° 19' S., 135° 00' W., about 0200Z/6/10 steering South-West. Speed about 12. WAIPAWA at 17 knots attempted close vessel which altered to south. WAIPAWA resumed his course 252 degs. without obtaining further particulars.

(b) In position 027° 10' S., 172° 40'E. at 1400Z/15/11 in bright moonlight a 2 funneled ship steering easterly at high speed.
(A.C.N.B. 1140Z/5 to N.Z.N.B.)

NIMBIN.

British 1052 tons sunk 0530Z/5 in position 033° 15' 30" S., 151° 47' E. Explosion between engine room and number 2 hold. Survivors convinced explosion external. 13 survivors 7 missing.
(A.C.N.B. 1445Z/5).

New Zealand.

AORANGAI.

MONOWAI escorting AORANGI left Auckland for Suva.
(N.Z.N.B. 0610Z/5 to Admty.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLAUS SCHOKE
Captured 2/12)

ENCOUNTER relieves CALIFORNIA p.m/5 Fleet tug ST. DAY position, course and speed 1200/5 036° 50' N., 013° 05' W., 277° 9 knots, proceeding to KLAUS SCHOKE. SHEFFIELD sails 1200/5 to patrol off Azores speed 18 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128/5 to CIRCASSIA, DERBYSHIRE)

German ship sunk (CALIFORNIA, 1732/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1732/5 and my 2004/4 and your 1414/2 (WORCESTER and CALIFORNIA to R/V with convoy S.L. 56) My position, course and speed, 037° 45' N., 022° 44' W., 010° altering to 360° on reaching 022° West speed of advance 15 knots at present. Request course and speed of convoy to enable me to overtake if possible or alternatively instructions. Oil remainder 1400 tons. (CALIFORNIA, to F.O.C.N.P 1828/5)

ENCOUNTER

My position course and speed at 2000/5. (ENCOUNTER, 2110/5)

KLAUS SCHOKE has sunk. Return to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 2007/5 to ENCOUNTER)

SPEZIA

Departure 4/12 SPEZIA for Marseilles. (Valencia, 1345/5)

PORTLAND
OSORNO

Reliable information states that PORTLAND left Coquimbo with GRAF SPEE fugitives on board numbering approx. 20. Also stated that these had crossed the Andes with Arab mule loads of equipment some of military nature. To avoid possible transhipment of above to other German Ships anchored in Talcahuano, Ambassador has requested M.F.A. to hold all German ships in Talacahuano until they have been searched. Naval Authorities are going to do this. Most likely ship to attempt escape is OSORNO which has fuel and also on account of cadets on board ex training ship PRIWALL. (N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1810/5)

RHEIN
IDARWALD

RHEIN, 022° 10' N., 094° 23' W., course and speed 345° 5 knots at 1400 Zone + 5 on 4/12. IDARWALD reported 023° 36' N., 089° 15' W., course & speed 075° 6 knots at 1430 Zone + 5 on 4/12. Consider longitude of ADARWALD should probably be 088° 15' W at above time. Check being obtained. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1811/5, to CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SAGUENAY (Torpedoed 1/12)

AMSTERDAM proceeded Ramsey, Isle of Man. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 0900/5)

SAGUENAY arrived and berthed (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1708/5)

SILVERPINE

(British 5066 tons) Ship of Convoy torpedoed position 054° 14' N., 018° 08' W., (HARVESTER, 0255/5 to C. in C., W.A.) (see S/M's Attacked)

LOCH RANZA (Torpedoed 2/12)

S.O.S. received from LOCH RANZA in position 15 miles east of Inishtrahul at 1044. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1124/5)

LOCH RANZA
CONCH
CALEDONIA (Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 1346/5. My position is 055° 32' N., 008° 02' W., THAMES has LOCH RANZA in tow by stern. Trying to reach shelter in Loch Foyle. Making about one knot in South West gale. THAMES has 25 men from LOCH RANZA on board. 73 survivors from CONCH and CALEDONIA here. After LOCH RANZA has reached shelter propose taking THAMES passengers on board and proceeding Clyde. (ST. LAURENT 1400/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

THAMES (Dutch tug) towing LOCH RANZA reports tow parted and situation critical. LOCH RANZA drifting between Tory Is. and Inishtrahull. Proceed with all despatch to their assistance as soon as weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2035/5 to ENGLISHMAN)

RAJAHSTAN (Torpedoed 2/12)

Noon position 058° 07' N., 009° 49' W., engine speed 3 knots. Vessel is not steering, if weather conditions continue Tug necessary to assure arrival. (RAJAHSTAN 1400/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Following received from RAJAHSTAN. Correct position 1900 G.M.T. 055° 21' North 008° 24' West. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1915/5 to Admty)

JEANNE M. (Torpedoed 2/12)

My 0943/2 Ship sunk was British ship JEANNE M. and not SEABANK SPRAY. Ship was in O.G. 46 and was torpedoed and sunk at 0545 B.S.T./2 in position 039° 19' N., 013° 54' W., Master has arrived at Gibraltar with remainder of survivors. My 1753/5/12 gives list of casualties. Re confidential books and W/T log. (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0255 — Enemy submarine in position 54° 14' N., 18.18 W., at 0255 (C. in C., W.A., 0522/5) (D.T.D., 0600/5)

0403 — 55° N., 19°- 21° W., indefinite position (D.S. 457)

0926 — About 46.30 N., 5° W., indefinite position Italian Submarine (D.S. 457) (V.A.S. 1053/5)

1949 — D.F., probable U-Boat 43°-44° N., 9°-10° W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 2036/5)

1650 — 52°-54° N., W. of 18° W., indefinite position (D.S. 458)

2107
2217 — 48°- 48.30 N., 8° - 8.30 W., Indefinite Position (D.S. 458)

2352 — Off coast of Portugal (Italian) Indefinite position (D.S. 458)

0001 — Master of KYLOE reports that at midnight of the 4th, 10 miles N.W. of Smalls saw a vessel right ahead both starboarded and switched-on lights. At that moment sighted submarine under his bows on surface following wake of other vessel. Submarine then crossed KYLOE's wake and disappeared in a Squall. No explosions heard. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1638/5)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- One slower than estimated entering Gironde today or tonight.
1 off Cape Spartel at 2145/3 outward bound
1 in vicinity of 60° N., 10° W., on the 3rd possibly still patrolling.
1 or probably two more in N.W. Approaches probably North of 55 N., and West of 20 W.

German- 1 arriving Lorient after midnight.
1 in vicinity of Porcupine Bank outward bound.
1 in 54. 14 N., 18.08 W., at 0255/5.
1 about 55 N., 20 W at 0403/5.
1 or probably 2 in area 55 N-57 N., 10 W-15 W.
1 in area 56 N- 58 N., 15 W - 19 W.
1 about 100-150 miles Northwards of Rockall.
1 probably patrolling North of 61 N., East of 20 W.
(D.D.I.C. 1359/5)

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Submarines Attacked

KASHMIR, KIPLING, JUPITER and PUNJABI arrived Plymouth 1158/4 and left 1619/4 (for attack on U-Boat) (C. in C., W.A., 0152/5)

0255 My 0255/5 (Ship of convoy torpedoed) Made good attack 14 charge pattern on U-Boat shortly after SILVERPINE sunk. Convoy was widely separated contact not yet regained. Am searching. 9 British 10 Chinamen picked up at daylight. Weather. (HARVESTER, 1145/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

1310 Obtained A/S contact in position 284° Cape Wrath 53. Contact not regained. Rough sea (KINGSTON ONYX 1310/5 to S.O. Trawlers, NorthernPatrol)

My 1310 Regained anti-submarine contact. Fired further charges circling position. No further gain obtained. No wreckage seen. (KINGSTON ONYX, 1410/5)

Your 1310. Submerged wreck is in position 287° Cape Wrath 51 miles. (A.C.O.S. 1533/5 to KINGSTON ONYX)

Northern Patrol trawler KINGSTON ONYX attacked contact probably non-submarine in position 58.50 N., 6.40 W., at 1310. (A.C.O.S. 1709/5)

MOST SECRET

6.12.1940
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Waters

Destroyer Patrol

Three destroyers from Portsmouth patrolled last night to southward of the convoy route between the Owers and Royal Sovereign L.V's. They had nothing to report.

Ships in Distress

A gale is blowing. Some 17 merchant vessels made distress signals today. Some minor warships are involved. BLYSKAWICA returned to the Clyde with damaged steering gear. HURRICANE has all her guns out of action, all boats lost and other damage.

F/S CHEVREUIL anchored at Rothesay with engines disabled.

Submarine UNBEATEN broke adrift from TITANIA and after collision with a merchant ship went ashore at Holy Loch.

Town Class Destroyers

With the exception of the 4 ships allotted to R.A.M.L. all Town class destroyers are to join the Western Approaches Command when ready for service.

Channel Striking Force

The German destroyers operating from Brest have proved themselves faster that the 5th D.F. of the Nore Command which is temporarily operating from Plymouth. The Admiralty propose that the 6th D.F. (Tribals) with the Home Fleet should change places with the 5th D.F. as the Channel Striking Force. Neither C. in C., H.F. nor C. in C., W.A., are in favour of the exchange, however.

U-Boat Tactics

The Admiralty today sent a message to N.C.S.O.'s at home and abroad concerning the tactics of U-Boats now operating in the Atlantic.

Administration of Cruisers

As from today, all cruisers in Home Waters are placed under the administration of C. in C., H.F. Provision of cruisers for other Home Commands will be made as follows when stationed in the South. The necessary instructions being given by the Admty., reliefs being detailed by C. in C., H.F. as necessary.
A. Either 2nd or 15th C.S. or part of them will be placed under temporary operational control of C. in C., Nore and stationed either at the Nore or Humber.

/B.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Waters

Administration of Cruisers- Contd.

B. Either 10th or 18th C.S. or part of them, will be placed under temporary operational control of C. in C., W.A. and stationed at Plymouth or Clyde.

Orkney Defences

The Orkney defences are to be brought to a strength of 3 Hurricane Squadrons. Air Attack on the Fleet as reprisal for Taranto is anticipated.

Enemy Air Activity

Dover Bombed

A stick of bombs was dropped in Dover Harbour this afternoon. No damage resulted.

Portsmouth Attacked

There was another air raid on Portsmouth this evening. Some damage was caused in the dockyard.

Convoy F.S. 53 Attacked

Convoy F.S. 53 was attacked near the Shipwash L.V. this morning. No damage is reported.

Mining

Minelaying activity by enemy aircraft last night was considerably more than of late. 42 aircraft nearly all of whom were presumably minelaying, were operating between 1800 and 2100/5 off the coast between Yarmouth and Southwold, the Lincolnshire coast, and between Aldeburgh and the Thames Estuary.

Mines and explosive cutters were found in the Dover area. Seven ground mines self detonated off St. Anns Head (Milford Haven area)

SS SUPREMITY (554 tons) in Convoy F.S. 51 was mined in the Thames this evening and sank.

Falmouth was opened this afternoon for steam propelled vessels only.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Operation "Ration" is to be put into force as soon as possible.

Portuguese coast watchers in San Miguel Azores last night sighted two suspicious vessels to eastward of Ponta Delgada and two others to westward, one of which appeared to be a man of war.
SHEFFIELD which left Gibraltar at 1500/5 for Azores Patrol has been ordered to proceed with despatch and EDINBURGH, returning to Scapa from Freetown after escorting Convoy W.S. 4 B has been ordered to proceed round St. Miguel.
Submarine CACHALOT is on patrol in this area.

A raider report was made by ROBERT MAERSK at 2245, and a cancellation about an hour later is regarded with suspicion.
CIRCASSIA on Western Patrol is investigating.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE Action with Raider, 5/12.

Investigation is being made as to why no signal concerning this action was received at Freetown until CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201/5 four hours after action was joined.

Shipping sailings from the River Plate are not being suspended

A request has been made for CARNARVON CASTLE to visit Montevideo on 9/12 for 24 hours, which may possibly be extended.

ENTERPRISE is searching for the enemy raider and QUEEN OF BERMUDA is proceeding to fuel at sea prior to resuming patrol.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterrancean

Air Attack on Valona

7 Blenheims attacked Valona this morning. The munitions dump and M.T. part were hit.

Blenheims were despatched to machine-gun enemy troops on the coast road west of Sarande.

Greek Advance

Santi Quaranta was occupied by Greek forces at 1030 today.

East Indies

Air Attack on Assab

3 Blenheims unsuccessfully attacked Assab today.

Suspicious Ship

A suspicious vessel was sighted this morning by BRITISH DUCHESS in the South Mozambique Channel. SHROPSHIRE left Durban about 1200Z/6 to cover shipping there. CERES is in the North Mozambique Channel.

America & West Indies

U-Boat Campaign

FORFAR (A.M.C. sunk 2/12) was struck by 5 torpedoes between 0353/2 and 0455/2. the last exploding the H.A. magazine.

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Channel Striking Force.

German destroyers operating from Brest have proved themselves faster than the destroyers of the 5th D.F. It is for consideration that in view of their extra speed, the 6th D.F. should change places with the 5th D.F. as the Channel striking force. Request your remarks.
(1st S.L. 1810/6 to C.in C. H.F.)

Town Class Destroyers.

With the exception of the four ships allocated to R.A.M.L., all Town Class Destroyers will join the command of C.in C. W.A. when ready for service.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2326/6).

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE.

At 1130/6. (D.C.1201/6). At 2330/6. (D.C.2355/6).

Milford Haven Balloon Defence.

My 1136/3. Understood Air Ministry object to balloons being flown on eastern part of convoy anchorage. Case for balloons (details).

Milford Haven is the convoy assembly port for Bristol Channel and ports in Western English Channel, one of the principal areas remaining open to shipping.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1222/6.)

Movements.

KASHMIR
JUPITER
KIPLING
PUNJABI.

Arrived Plymouth 1345/5.
(C.in C. W.A. 0012/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

ICARUS. Your 1801/5 arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0858/6). Intend sailing ICARUS for Immingham tonight E.T.D.1700 E.T.A. N. Goodwin 2359 please signal further instructions. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1143/6). To be sailed to pass N.Goodwin at 0815/7. Route. Speed. Fighter cover will be arranged Code word Alpha. (C.in C. Nore 1302/6), (C.in C. Portsmouth 1623/6).

RODNEY. Expect escort by Sunderland aircraft from about 1200 until 1500. (C.in C. Rosyth 0916/6 to RODNEY).

EDINBURGH.
SHEFFIELD.
TROUBADOUR. Adty. 2222/5. EDINBURGH. (Left Freetown 1600/30/11)
Route to Scapa. (C.in C. W.A. 1234/6)
Informing Western Patrol of movements of EDINBURGH and SHEFFIELD. (F.O.C.N.P. 1130/6). See URGE (Submarines).

RAMILLIES
FURIOUS
ARGUS
CALIFORNIA
FRANCONIA. Your 2222/5. Re destroyer escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1255/6) (See Operations Volume). C.in C. W.A. 1255/6 and Adty. 1734/6. Request you will sail 2 destroyer for this duty. (C.in C. H.F. 2006/6 to R.A.D.)

BRIDPORT. My 1204/5. Sailing delayed 24 hours due to stress of weather. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1110/6).

MORETON BAY. F.O.C.N.P. 1646/3. Route to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1355/6).

RAMILLIES. After arrival at Clyde to sail to Portsmouth for docking and leave. To be ready to sail (date). (D.O.D.(H) 1719/6).

DUNOTTAR.
CASTLE.
CILICIA. DUNOTTAR CASTLE from Belfast is to sail 8/12 escorted by two destroyers of 10th or 11th Escort Groups to be detailed by D.12. CILICIA from Clyde can be included in convoy if this is early enough. (C.in C. W.A. 1512/6).

Rosyth. Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth 1518/6).

Northern Patrol. Trawler line occupied tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1524/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Western Channel.	Night report (C.in C. W.A. 1556/6, 2102/6).
Orkneys.	Position 2000/6 (A.C.O.S. 1558/6).
FORMIDABLE.	My 1815/3. Work delayed by gale. Expect to sail 0800/9. E.T.A.Greenock 1600/9. (FORMIDABLE 1712/6) Please rearrange escorts as necessary. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1739/6 to C.in C. W.A.)
M.T.Ships.	Adty. 1200/5. Report as early as possible to F.O.I.C. Glasgow and F.O.I.C. Greenock E.T.A. Greenock of the M.T.Ships allocated to Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1757/6 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

Operations.

Patrol South of Convoy Route.	My 1427/5 has nothing to report. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1107/6).
A.P.Patrols.	Ref. my 0920/6. Patrols not covered tonight unless weather moderates. (S.O.A.P. Harwich. 1606/6).
ARGUS.	To sail in Convoy WS5(A) (date) Reason. (D.N.A.D. 2252/6 2253/6). See Operations Volume.
Operation "MONSOON".	My 1852/5. Revised sailing date for FURIOUS (D.O.D.(H) 2325/6 to Air Min.) (See Operations Volume.)

Submarines.

UNBEATEN URGE.	My 1731/3. Re use for an operation. (V.A.S.O.S. 00018/6). See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

URGE.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/5. Cancel my 1316/5. TROUBADOUR is to escort URGE. (C.in C. W.A. 1236/6).

Positions and movements.

1800/7 (V.A.S. 1653/6).

SEALION attack on tanker 25/11.

SEALION reports only one aircraft seen. At 1111/25/11 carried out unsuccessful snap attack on large northbound tanker in approx. 61° N., 4° 10' E., in heavy weather (V.A.S.1907/6).

British Air Activity.

Lorient to be attacked.

AP6 40 6/12. Available aircraft Nos. 53 and 59 Sqns. to attack tonight submarines and docks Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1316/6).

Training of 816 and 825 Squadrons.

Request your remarks on Adty. 0012/4 to C.in C. H.F. and A.C.O.S. and C.in C. H.F's reply 1539/5 * which are being passed to you. (5th S.L. 1355/6 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Brest to be Attacked.

AP/641 6/12. Repeat tonight attack with Tims on Power Station and Naval Dockyard at Brest with available Aircraft of No. 217 Sqdn. (H.Q.C.C. 1419/6).

Reconnaissance of Kiel Ordered.

As soon as weather conditions are suitable one A/C 235 Sqdn. is to carry out a photographic r/c of the shipping at Kiel in following priority:- (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1440/6).

Re S/L's.

217 6/12. Your A.951 5/12. Object of keeping searchlights doused under certain conditions is, etc. Orders can be issued for appropriate searchlights to comply with request if these factors are appreciated and possible risk of inviting air attack is accepted. Request your decision. (H.Q.F.C. 1530/6 to Air Min.)

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Defence of Scapa.

X 179 6/12. Admiralty anticipate air attack on Fleet now at Scapa as reprisal for Taranto. C.in C. Home Fleet and Admiralty consider that Orkney defences should be brought up to three Hurricane Squadrons in addition to 232 Flight and the F.A.A.Fighter Sqdn. Consider and report proposed action on this request.
(Air Min. 1555/6 to F.C.)

A.11 6/12. Your X.179 6/12. Three Hurricane Squadrons will be available in Kirkwall Sector and 232 Flight Adjacent if required. Request authority to increase 232 Flight to full Squadron.
(H.Q.F.C. 2300/6 to Air Min).

Reconnaissance Spartel to 40° W.

X.7437.A.295 6/12. Surface R/C area covered Spartel to four degrees west.
(200 Group 1720/6).

Air Escorts 7/12.

(C.in C. Rosyth 1924/6).

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on Portsmouth 5/12.

My 2200/5. Clarence Yard fire now out. Damage not so serious as anticipated.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0723/6).

Report from Sheerness.

Following received from X D O Sheerness = Control Station 26 reported hearing low flying plane and at 1847 observed 1 way galve swings on guard loop and M1 and M2 all occurring practically simultaneously. 2010/5/12.
(C.in C. Nore 1051/6).

Convoy F.S.

Enemy aircraft attacking F.S.Convoy. 52° 3'N., 1° 46'E.
(VORTIGERN 1123/6).

My 1123. One Dornier. 17 dropped bombs; hurried Eastwards and returned to shadow height.
(VORTIGERN 1132/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

CAMERON. (attack on Portsmouth 5/12.	A Number of men in CAMERON owe their lives to having their torches close to hand as all lights went out and ship fell over on her side on bomb exploding. It is for consideration that this point should be brought generally to notice. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1147/6).
	My 2200/5 fire in CAMERON is now out. Ship turned over on side and probably a total loss. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1448/6).
Portsmouth attack 6/12.	Air Raid on Portsmouth 1940/2000. Dockyard damage not great. Victualling Yard slight damage. DOLPHIN very slight damage. No casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2338/6).
CRAIGMILLER (Damaged 19/11).	Sheerness 1600/6. Departure H.M.T. CRAIGMILLER for Southend for onward routeing to Lowestoft. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1601/6).
Dover attached.	Enemy aircraft dropped a stick of bombs in Dover Harbour at 1656/6. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A.Dover 1644/6).
KILGERRAN CASTLE. (Bombed 2/12).	Has since sunk. (D.S.458).
Flares dropped by enemy aircraft.	Reply to C.in C. H.F. 1913/5. (D.T.S.D.2011/6).
Berthing of Vessels.	It is considered likely that the Germans may launch attacks by torpedo carrying aircraft on an increased scale. This should be considered when berthing vessels. (D.D.I.C. 2324/6 to C's in C at home).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation C.Q.2. My 1348/4. Operation postponed for 24 hours due to weather.
(C.in C. W.A. 0710/6 to ADVENTURE KASHMIR KIPLING PUNJABI JUPITER.

Mines detonated Sheerness. Group Officer in CAPRICORNUS reports
(a) At 2020/5 one mine detonated by LL 220° Knob L.V. three cables.

(b) at 2345/5 one mine detonated by S.A gear 234° Knob L.V. 1 mile bearing ahead two cables.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 0925/6).

Dover. No routine sweeping to 0800/6 in Q.Z.X.247 exploratory sweep between south west Gate and Sandhead Buoys. Four sweeps cut by explosive cutters. One mine found 160° South Foreland 2.3 miles.
(V.A.Dover 1207/6).

Request following may be broadcast:- Port of Falmouth open for steam propelled vessels only. Diesel engined ships should not repeat not be routed to Falmouth except by special arrangements with N.C.S.O. Instructions for approaching.
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth 1304/6).

Operation J.H. Your 1149/2. Weather and moon unfavourable. Do not intend to repeat operation.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1537/6 to Adty).

Milford Haven. Seven mines (ground) self detonated. Positions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1817/6).

Plymouth. Since my 1823/4 two mines detonated spontaneously one at 1848 on approx. bearing 220 degs. Breakwater Fort and eastward of Penlee Point and one between Shagstone and Newstone.
(C.in C. W.A. 1825/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface unit off Naze.

By D/F at 0954/6 unknown enemy surface unit, probably destroyer or larger unit was near The Naze. Unreliable fix. (B.D.I.C. 1031/6).

Units in Bay of Biscay ports.

Summary of reconnaissance of enemy naval units in Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire, Gironde,
(V.A.S. 1711/6 to S/M's Area B).

Reports when ships are laid up.

Miscellaneous.

A.M.0123/5. Request confirmation that reports are required to cover all ships and vessels including A.P.Vessels M.T.B's etc.
(C.in C. Nore 1429/6 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ENGLISH TRADER (3953 tons).

Ex Convoy O.B.245, rudder carried away, about 450 miles S.W. of Canary Is. See South Atlantic.

BRITISH PRINCE.

Ex Convoy HX91. In distress 550 miles West of Hebrides. (D.O.R.)

S.S. EMPIRE THUNDER. made S.O.S. 2343/5).

Intercept at 2321 S.O.S. bad fading message unread. Believe call sign begins with G.N.? Immediate assistance required, no further particulars. (North Foreland Radio 0048/6).

Following received. S.O.S. S.S. EMPIRE THUNDER main engine disabled strong west gale require immediate assistance. 59° o'N., 14° 40'W. 2343/5 G.M.T. (North Foreland Radio 0054/6).

Proceed with all despatch.
(S.O.N.T. 0135/6 to KINGSTON ONYX).
Proceed with all despatch to position 59° 09'N., 14° 40' W. to assist S.S. EMPIRE THUNDER.
(S.O.N.T. 0740/6 to NORTHERN SUN).

Sail ST. OLAVES to assist EMPIRE THUNDER disabled position at 2340 was 59° 09'N., 14° 40'W.
(A.C.O.S. 1406/6 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall).

It is possible you may find EMPIRE THUNDER already in tow. If so report immediately in order that tug may be recalled.
(A.C.O.S. 1949/6 to KINGSTON ONYX.)

S.S. BECHEVILLE. (4228 tons).

S.O.S. BECHEVILLE off Skerry Vore both anchors gone require immediate assistance. (Lyness W/T 010/6)

CQ V.GPK. S.O.S. BECHEVILLE QUM. T.O.R. 0522 Ends.
(Scapa W/T 0545/6).

Following received from Cdre. E.N. 35:- In S.S. BECHEVILLE, cruising in Lee of Colonsay having affected temporary repairs to engines, lost both anchors, Captain intends proceed Clyde when weather moderates. T.O.O. 1713/6 (N.C.S.O. Oban 2230/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

S.S. SERINGA. — Distress signal at 0306/6 in 57° 52'N., 23° 56'W. Requires assistance. (C.in C. W.A. 2350/11).

S.S. MARY N. — From MARY N. Strong gale broke left lifeboat other parts missed sea water is rushing inside in the engine room. (Valentia Radio 0249/6).

S.S. NYLAND. (Swedish 3378 tons). — S.O.S. ground West rock ship breaking. (NYLAND T.O.R. 0750/6).

S.S. HOPESTAR. (5267 tons). — HOPESTAR ashore Bally Macormack point near Bangor Bay Belfast Lough require immediate assistance. (Lyness W/T 0756/5, HOPESTAR 0817/6).

HOPESTAR. ACCOMAC. — British HOPESTAR driven ashore Ballyholme Bay Belfast Lough tugs unable to approach until weather moderates. No immediate danger. British ACCOMAC also ashore and after boiler explosion apparently total loss. No casualties, crew landed. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1832/6).

N.C. S.S. ICELAND. — Following received from Wick Radio:- From S.S. ICELAND Begins Naval Control Steamer ICELAND required two tugs been badly damaged by other steamer no steering gear Ends. Endeavouring communicate with vessel. (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0835/6).

S.S. QUINEAN (5205 tons). — Driving lee shore Turnberry Point. Require assistance. (S.S. QUINEAN via lands End Radio 0845/6 Port patrick Radio. No T.O.O. or T.O.R.)

Driving ashore turnberry Point Firth of Clyde. Ship unmanageable. Heavy gale. (QUINEAN via Port patrick Radio No T.O.O.)

Following has been read Cleethorpes W/T. Situation bettering do not consider vessel in danger, master 1217/6 G.M.T. (QUINEAN T.O.R. 1331/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

S.S. TAYGETOS (Greek 4295 tons) (made S.O.S. 5/12).

Following has been read:-
317° Gonio B. de TAYGETOS rudder smashed lifeboats swept away require immediate assistance to abandon ship no position.
(Lands End Radio 0910/6).

S.S. ADAMAS. (Greek 4144 tons).

Position 10 miles NW Tory Island. Damaged number one hold, lifeboats and steering gear. Require assistance.
(S.S. ADAMAS via Malin Head Radio 0915/6 via Lyness Radio 0921/6).

? MARICHANDIS.

Following has been read from ?SVYE MARICHANDIS. S.O.S. Out of Control drifting towards land bearing from A GPK 297.
(Port Patrick Radio 0944/6).

S.S. STOLWYK. (Dutch 2489 tons).

S.O.S. Three miles from Tory Island 25° true lost rudder.
(STOLWYK 0754/6).

S.O.S. STOLWYK fear to run against rocks near Tory Island very soon want assistance.
(Port Patrick 1120/6).

S.S. CITY OF OXFORD. (2759 Tons.)

CITY OF OXFORD, unmanageable drifting close to land, bearing from Malin Head Radio 017°.
(Malin Head Radio 1027/6).

TABARISTAN. (6251 tons).

The following has been received.
From TABARISTAN steering gear carried away position approx. 55.47 N., 7.20 W. Require immediate assistance.
(Port Patrick Radio 1122/6).

M/S Tr. RAYMONT. TORNADO.

Harwich departure Tug NORMAN at 1125/6 to assistance of M/S Trawlers RAYMONT and TORNADO near Sunk L.V.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1127/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

M/S. Trs. RAYMONT. TORNADO. (Contd.)

Harwich 6/12 arrivals Rescue tug ST. MELLONS towing TORNADO at 1730 Rescue Tug NORMAN towing RAYMONT at 1703. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1744/6).

AGHIA, EIRINI. (made S.O.S. 5/12).

Have 29 men on board (Valentia Radio 1159/6) Proceed to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1200/6 to ESPERANCE BAY, CATHAY).

My 1200. Position of AGHIA EIRINI now reported as 052° 19'N., 022° 25'W. At 1244 unreliable D/F of enemy S/M between 052° and 053° N., probably West of 020° W. Do not remain in the vicinity of AGHIA EIRINI to search for her. (A.C.W.A. 1422/6 to CATHAY, ESPERANCE BAY).

Your 1410 6th. Cancel my 1200 6th. Do not close position of AGHIRA EIRINI. (C.in C. W.A. 1738/6 to ESPERANCE BAY, CATHAY).

SAINT CROIX NIAGARA and SAINT CLARE may investigate and assist AGHIRA EIRINI reported in distress in 52° 19'N., 22° 25 miles W. (C.in C. W.A. 1900/6 to Adty).

S.S. AGHIRA EIRINI reported in distress in position 52° 19'N., 22° 25' W, at 1800Z/6. S.O. of ships addressed is to take ships addressed under his orders, investigate and render any possible assistance reporting to C.in C. W.A. who will issue any further instructions. (D.O.D.(H) 2039/6 to ST. CROIX, NIAGARA, ST. CLARE.).

NEURALIA.

SIAVOL collided with NEURALIA in gale last night. NEURALIA cut from upper deck to waterline and required immediate docking. Please inform D. of S.T. if she can be repaired in time to catch convoy. (P.S.T.O.Clyde 1239/6 to S.I.O. Glasgow.)

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

S.S. LLANGIBBY CASTLE.

Following received in M.N.C.R. from Lands End M Radio at 1945. 54° 34'N., 22° 31'W. D.C. disabled doubt whether able to repair. Request instructions. (LLANGIBBY CASTLE 1305/6).

BLYSKAWICA.

Lost contact with Clyde section. Steering gear damaged. Compelled to return to Clyde. My noon position approx. 056° N., 008° 30'W. Wind W.N.W. force 10 sea 88 visibility 5 miles. (BLYSKAWICA 1308/6).

FOREMOST 18.

Great Yarmouth departure tug KROOMAN to assistance of S.S. FOREMOST 18.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1321/6).

FOREMOST 18 is riding to sea anchor position 2 M.S. 50° E., 6 buoy. KROOMAN will endeavour to take her in tow. FOREMOST has run out of fuel steering gear broken down.
(F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 2138/6).

HURRICANE.

My approx. p.c. and s. 056° 07'N., 022° 40'W. 290° 3 knots hove to. following are no further use after prolonged gale. Both dynamos, gyro-compass, all guns, A/S set, cooling circuit and all boats. 50% of guard rails missing. Can steer by main engines. Forecastle deck slightly stove in. Gale continues no barometer wind W.N.W. 10 sea 87. When possible intend returning at best speed. Touch lost with HESPERUS when steering by main engines at 1020/6.
(HURRICANE 1331/6).

When weather conditions permit close HURRICANE (p.c.s.) to Liverpool if necessary.
(C.in C. W.A. 1930/6 to HESPERUS).

Your 1930/6. HESPERUS in company. Both Dynamos and steering gear repaired. Can make Liverpool without escort.
(HURRICANE 2114/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)
Following has been read:-

S.S. MOUSSE LE MOYEC. (French 2038 tons).

MOUSSE LE MOYEC 5 miles S.W. Hartland Point drifting Lee Shore want immediate assistance. Cleethorpes W/T (T.O.R.1332) (Burnham on Sea Radio. Recd. 1229 G.M.T.)

MOUSSE LE MOYEC ashore off Hartland Point requires immediate assistance. (Lyness 1415/6).

The following has been read.
Cancel distress re GMPM (MOUSSE LE MOYEC) 1414/6 de GKU. T.O.R. 1535/6.
(Lands End Radio Rec. 1545/6).

S.S. RUDLOE.

RUDLOE. Received 1313 G.M.T. de GMPM. Ashore on Hartland Point require assistance.
(Burnham on Sea Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1432/6).

UNBEATEN.

M/S UNBEATEN broke adrift from H.M.S. TITANIA at 0700/6 during gale of hurricane force and after collision with merchant vessel went aground. Apparent damage from collision slight. Hope to refloat her at 1700. N.O.I.C. Greenock has been asked to provide tugs but boat work in Holy Lock is at present impossible.
(Capt: (S) 1531/6).

Captain (S) S's 1531/6 is passed to you for information.
(V.A.S. 1921/6 to Adty).

Unknown M/V.

Intercept at 1640 G.M.T. DE G.M.H. Please keep lookout for unknown merchant vessel which is reported to be out of control and drifting 10 miles N.N.W. Malin Head at 1555 G.M.T.
(Port Patrick Radio 1642/6).

YOUNG FISHERMAN.

Drifter YOUNG FISHERMAN (engagement 6) grounded alongside railway pier Oban on 28/11 since capsized and become total loss a.m. today.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1655/6).

S.S. GORSETHORNE.

Disabled and requires immediate assistance 5337 North 0344 West.
(T.O.R. 1656/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

ORCHIS
TULIP
HOLLYHOCK
CAPE MARIATO.

Bar heavy gale this morning ORCHIS aground at 0700 and is still ashore. Hope to tow her off tomorrow high water. TULIP dragged collided HOLLYHOCK slightly damaged TULIP considerably damaged upper works of HOLLYHOCK. TULIP grounded 0828 since refloated slight damage CAPE MARIATO dragged and grounded now refloated no damage apparent. (Cdre. WESTERN ISLES 1741/6).

FAIRPLAY. I.

Your 1430/6/12. Tug FAIRPLAY I is sheltering in Coldingham Bay near St. Abbs Head. One barge has sunk approx. 3 miles 090° from Eyemouth. The other is afloat in the same position moored to the sunken barge by the towing span and will be recovered a.m. 7/12 if weather moderates sufficiently. (C.in C. Rosyth 1809/6 to N.C.S.O. Middlesboro.)

S.S. BARON CARNEGIE.

Following received from S.S. BARON CARNEGIE anchored Loch Indial, Islay awaiting weather moderating. P/V. damaged. T.O.O. 1412/6. Ship left Oban in O.B.254 at 0130/5 for St.John N.B. in ballast. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1815/6).

Assistance to Ships in distress.

As soon as conditions permit every endeavour should be made to assist to nearest place of safety the ships in difficulties due to present severe weather. If necessary search by Tugs for ships recently damaged by enemy action should be postponed. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1842/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Unknown.

From unknown station begins. Ship inside Inishdary Island breaking rapidly. (Burnham on Sea Radio T.O.R. 1843).

NAIAD
DIDO.

On return of BONAVENTURE intend to sail NAIAD to Rosyth for repairs as in my 1536/20/11. Work will occupy about three weeks intend ship should give leave. Propose refit be carried out concurrently with above special items. On return of PHOEBE propose DIDO be taken in hand for stiffening and other work generally as in PHOEBE. Request repair Yard for DIDO be allocated. (C.in C. H.F. 2226/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

CHEVREUIL.

Previous instructions cancelled. When weather permits proceed with all despatch to assist F.S. CHEVREUIL reported drifting west at 3 knots with engine disabled in position 56° 21'N., 9° 21'W., at 1045. Report when you proceed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2315/6 to tug ENGLISHMAN).

My 1040/6. Cancel. Am anchoring Rothesay. Engines now completely useless also W/T request tug to proceed to Greenock 7/12.
CHEVREUIL 2100/6).

BELMONT.

Have following defects beyond capacity of ships staff to repair. Am proceeding to Milford Haven E.T.A. 0900/7.
(BELMONT 2315/6).

MOST SECRET.
6.12.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

S.L. 56. Estimated positions 0900/6 (D.T.D. 1333/6 to C. in C. H.F.).
When weather permits proceed to meet S.L. 56. Route. (C. in C. W.A. to HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICANE 1126/6)

W.N.51. Code "Material". Escorts unappropriated (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1206/6)

O.B. 257 Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1240/6)

E.N. 37. H.M.T's NORTHERN PRIDE, LADY ELSA, WOLVES. Additional escort GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1950/6) (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/6) Route (R.A.D.H.F. to CURACOA, 1948/6).

O.G.47. Date and route.(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2200/6)

F.N. 50. Arrived with LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/6)

F.N. 53. Sails 0800. Corvette escort SHEARWATER (C in C. Nore 2/00/6). Will probably exceed 60 ships. Hunt class destroyer to form additional escort under orders of EGRET. (C in C. Nore 2116/6).

S.C.15. Route (D.T.D. 1812/6 to CILICIA)

F.S. 54 QUORN as additional escort to SHEERNESS (C in C. Rosyth 1731/6).

S.C. 13. Only ship seen was MARCREST hove to Not seen CITY OF OXFORD or LOCH RANSA. (WELLINGTON 1840/6).

O.B. 255 Delayed 24 hours (VETERAN to CAMELLIA, ROTHESAY, 1615/6)

H.X. 91 Important Cargoes. Additional escort if possible (D.T.D. 1253/6 to C.inC. W.A

F.N.F.S. Forecast of sailings (C. in C. Rosyth 1019/6).

S.L. 56. My 1414/2 WORCESTERSHIRE is not to join S.L. 56 Proceed Clyde (route). (F.O.C.N.P., 1610/6).

Your 1126/6. Am shortly fuelling for meeting and escorting SL.56 convoy from 8/12. My approx. p, c and s 054°30' N 020° 30'W 340 degrees. 3. Intend to proceed to Lough Foyle when weather permits, to refued.HARVESTER 2107/6 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.L. 57 / S.L.S.57 Route (F.O.C.N.P. to Western Patrol 1434/6)

/S.L.58.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys contd.
S.L.58.

KENT is to act as ocean escort to convoy SL 58 routed in accordance 1944/30/11 and N.C.S.O. Memo. Admiralty requested to issue instructions when KENT is to leave convoy and route to port selected. My 1905/5 refers. (C. in C. S.A. 1317/6 to KENT).

W.N. 49

CURACOA left Scapa for convoy W.N. 49. (A.C.O.S. 1409/6)

Part company from Oban portion of W.N. 49 at 0800/7 and proceed to meet Clyde portion estimated off Rattray Head at 0800. C in C. Rosyth 1855/6 to JASON)

W.N. 50.

Retard sailing 25 hours weather (N.C.S.O Greenock 1032/6) My 1025/5. Amend third sentence to read 'on passin Dunnet Head GLEANER proceed to Scapa'. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail GLEANER as necessary to meet W N 50 due Cape Wrath 0700/9 and Duncansby 1700/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 2355/6 to GLEANER A.C.O.S.)

7 M.V.b.
(named)

Your 1200/5 as only trawlers could be provided as escort intend ships should be sailed independently so as to make the best use of their speed. Fighter cover being provided. (C. in C. W.A. 1522/6 to Admty)

Not met 5854 N 1630 W. Weather (WALKER 1601/6).

Not met. Will be in position 058° 35N 012° 00'W at 1000/7 WESTCOTT in company P F X one stated convoy dispersed in gale yesterday 59° 04' N 16° 17' W. Weather. (VANSITTART 1800/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X. 94

Departure 6/12 COMORIN to Bermuda RAJPUTANA TRILLIUM, WINDFLOWER, ocean escort, ASSINIBOINE local escort H.X. 94. (S.O.L. Halifax 1817/6)

SATURNUS

Your 1844/5. Admiralty routeing message quoted must not be passed to Swedish ship SATURNUS in plain language. If ship has ship navicert she will be allowed through patrols. (D.E.W.D. 1649/6 to N.C.S.O. New York)

Troop Convoys.
U.S.A.

Sailing date and details. Ocean escort FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK and DIDO class (D.O.D. (H) 2250/6 to C!s in C. W.A. Nore, Portsmouth, H.F. etc).

T.C. 8.

Instructions for Ocean escort REVENGE (D.O.D. (F) 2240/6 amended 1143/7)

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy Attack.
U/B Tactics.

From reports received from Commodores of convoys it appears that some Masters of ships in Convoy are not aware of the tactis of U-boats now operating in the Atlantic.

2. Daylight attacks by submerged U-boats on ships in convoy under escort are very rare, except on ships sailing independently or straggling from convoy.

3. U-boats are attacking convoys at nights and on the surface.

4. To counter these tactics. (Procedure)

5. Experience has shown that ships breaking out of convoy after attack at night are frequently sunk. Thus it is most important that convoy should maintain its formation after attack. To reduce the dangers of a salvo of torpedoes sinking several ships in convoy columns have recently been opened to five cables apart.

6. Ships must not hesitate to open fire on any U-boat sighted if range is clear The temptation to withhold fire in the hopes of a subsequent easier shot must be resisted. The opportunity may never recur.

7. All the above points are to be emphasised and explained at Convoy Conferences.
(D.A/S. W. 1919/6 to N.C.S.O. 5.).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Ships at Casablanca.

Reported at Casablanca 3/12, JEAN BART, GLOIRE, PRIMAGUET left with three t.b's 30/11, MILAN and EPERVIER. Three t.b's. S/M's CASABLANCA, MEDUSE and two others of MEDUSE class. AUSTRAL and twelve other small patrol craft. Transports MOGADOR arrived 29/11 and sailed with troops HOGGAR 29/11 sailed with troops for Dakar VILLE DE MAJUNGA due to sail with troops believed Indo-China CONDE and ESTEREL 29/11 sailed with troops VILLE DE VERDUN arrived 1/12 with aviators and sailors. Ships in port OUYANE, ZAZPIAKBAT, ATLANTA, ESPIGUETTE FORT RICHEPAUSE, SAINT LOUIS, MARGUERITE FINALY, VILLE D'ALGER, BAMAKCO, SAN PEDRO, ASIE, BRESTOIS, ARICA, PIERRE L.D. and EDEA sailed 29/11 EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER arrived 2/12 with passengers. In port British ship PENCREED Italian ship SAINT PIERRE Danish ELSE Norwegian RINGULV another Norwegian, Norwegian JASPIS Spanish SAC.F. two small tankers SURVIT and VICTORIA, two small Cherifien ships. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1453/6).

WYOMING
OREGON
SAN FRANCISCO

French merchant ships WYOMING and OREGON with a small number of French subjects on board will be ready to leave Liverpool about 9/12 and 15/12 respectively. They should be sailed and routed in accordance with my 1913/28/10. Further signal will be made with reference to SAN FRANCISCO, who will be ready to sail about the end of December. (D.O.D.(H) 1651/6 to C.in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

CHARLES PLUMIER.

Your 1210/5. Ship and cargo should not be seized in prize at Gibraltar but should be sent to U.K. as soon as possible. Report if crew cannot be raised locally. French officers and crew should be asked individually whether they wish to join De Gaulle and those unwilling should be repatriated to Casablanca in French ship VICTORIA, if still available. (Head of M. 2013/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Seamen.

Your 1210/5 and my 2013/6. French seamen willing to join de Gaulle should be invited to sign following declaration. Men signing Declaration will receive any arrears of wages back to 8th May on French scale and will be paid in N.M.B. rates from the date of signing Declaration. (Head of M. 2014/6, to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH. Admty. 2222/5. Proceed in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1015 N/30/11 through position 2. C.in C. W.A. requested to amend route if desired.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0140/6, to EDINBURGH).

RENOWN. Operation "Ration". Cancel my 2037/5. As it will probably be decided to carry out operation "RATION" in the near future, docking of RENOWN must be postponed. (1st S.L. 0156/6 to S.O. Force H).

My 1411/5. Y shaft of RENOWN will be out of action from 0800/7 until 1200/8. (S.O. Force H., 11006,to Admty.)

My 0155/6. H.M.G. have decided that operation "RATION" is to be put into effect as soon as necessary forces are available. One convoy to be intercepted and a report made, when further instructions will be given. (D.O.D.(F) 1645/6, to F.O.C.N.A.)

TRIUMPH. Leave patrol after dark today and return to Gibraltar. FAULKNOR will meet you (position) during daylight 7/12 and provide escort. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102/6, to TRIUMPH amended 1740/6).

MANCHESTER. Gibraltar arrival 1100/8 C.S.18 in MANCHESTER. (S.O.I., Gib., 1246/6).

MANCHESTER will be at 8 hours notice for steam for 24 hours from 0600/7 to repair brickwork. (S.O. Force H 1634/6).

FURIOUS Admty. 2222/5. RAMILLIES ARGUS FRANCONIA escorted by KELVIN, ECLIPSE, WRESTLER, VELOX sail 7/12 to r.v. with you in position 037° 50' N. 017° 30' W. at 1030 zone minus one 9/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1730/6 to FURIOUS).

Azores, Oil Stock. Your telegram No. 1859 3/12 (Oil Stock to be available for ten ex-Norwegian whale catchers). Necessary request has been passed to consul Ponta Delgada Azores. For information, stocks fuel and diesel ample at Ponta Delgada and we welcome any opportunity to work them down on British approved business.
(Consul Gen., New York, 1135/6 to Admty.)

/ Azores Patrol, ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Azores Patrol, SHEFFIELD CACHALOT

My 2235/5 SHEFFIELD left Gibraltar 1500/5 to patrol Azores to prevent enemy occupation. She has been informed (a) that most probable objectives are Ponta Delgada, Horta and the Island of Terceira. (b) Of the more possible landing places in the Island. (c) That the enemy U-boats normally operate to the East of the Island. (d) Of the details of your patrol.
Her orders are:-
(i) that she should not enter territorial waters or make her presence more conspicuous than necessary.
(ii) that she should abandon patrol when it is necessary to return to Gibraltar at 20 knots to fuel and to report in due course when this will be.
(D.O.D.(F) 1758/6 to CACHALOT).

Suspicious Vessels, Azores.

Portuguese coast watchers in San Miguel, Azores, sighted two suspicious vessels last night to eastward of Ponta Delgada and two others to westward of which one appeared to be man-of-war. Portuguese destroyer patrolling round island saw nothing. Naval Authorities are alarmed over rumours of German raid on island. They would be reassured if vessels were British. Request information on this point. Portuguese destroyer will carry out patrol again tonight. (N.A. Lisbon, 1824/6, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A. 2346/6, 0316/7 to EDINBURGH, SHEFFIELD etc.)
Your 1824/6. These ships are not British. (D.D.I.C., 0005/7).

SWONA.

Instruct SWONA not to call at St. Vincent except in case of necessity, and report when instructions have been given. (D.O.D.(F) 2100/6, to Consul, Ponta Delgada).

ROBERT MAERSK, false report.

Following has been read:-
RRRR 41. 00 N., 20. 22 W. ROBERT MAERSK attacked by two ships. (Gibraltar Radio, T.O.R. 2303/6).

Following has been read.
ROBERT MAERSK. Please cancel my RRRR 2245/6 G.M.T. (Plymouth W/T T.O.R. 2352/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action with Raider, 5/12.

No signal concerning action received at Freetown prior to CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201/5. Request you ascertain and report when next breaking W/T Silence relevant details CARNARVON CASTLE's previous signal including T.O.O. and transmission frequencies used, to whom transmitted and by whom received if known. (C.in C. S.A., 0001/6, to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 0001/6. This information to be sent when convenient. (C.in C. S.A. 0830/6).

A.W.I. informed. CARNARVON CASTLE was in action with raider who was last seen at 1400 G.M.T. Thursday 5/12 in position 031° 00' S. 043° 18' W. Course 040°, 19 knots. (D.D.I.C. 0007/6, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

R.A.S.A.D. 1625/5 and CARNARVON CASTLE 1740/5. Request description and last position course and speed be broadcast to Warships and Merchant ships in appropriate areas. (C.in C. S.A., 0016/6, to Admty.) Action taken (D.D.I.C. 0418/6, 0419/6).

Shipping Suspension. In view of raider report should sailings from River Plate be suspended? (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1107/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1107/6 is being passed to you, reply "no" has been made. (C.in C. S.A. 1647/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Details Requested. Unless W/T Silence is important report circumstances of encounter and what damage was inflicted on enemy. (V.C.N.S. 1325/6 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Visit to Montevideo. Your 2015/5 addressed B.N.A. Buenos Aires. Permission has laready been requested for CARNARVON CASTLE to visit Montevideo for 24 hours on 9/12. H.M. Minister considers it advisable to delay asking for 48 hours until ship arrives when details of repairs can be supplied to Uruguay authorities. No difficulty is then anticipated in obtaining extension of time. Please advise E.T.A. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1340Z/6 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ Report of Action .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Report of Action.

Note. Parts of this signal and of CARNARVON CASTLE's 2101/6 duplicate one another. Duplicate portions have been omitted in one or other of the signals.

Enemy opened accurate fire 0800 at 17,000 yards. Main aerial, fire control circuit and all communications cut early. Enemy was hit early, made smoke, on fire aft, twice reduced to one gun for short time.
23 hits on CARNARVON CASTLE. Structural damage extensive though superficial except as reported in her 1740Z/5.
CARNARVON CASTLE fired 500 rounds. Enemy expenditure greater. After immediate repairs at Montevideo, necessary for CARNARVON CASTLE to undergo dockyard refit before fit for service. Major defects including all circuit and piping.
After visiting CARNARVON CASTLE I consider she put up spirited fights against well equipped enemy with high trained personnel. Failure of control and communications prevented greater success.
Raider motor ship about 5,000 tons, Flush deck, raised forecastle, raked stem, cruiser stern, two heavy masts, prominent cross trees, short squat funnel, passenger accommodation round lower bridge. Possibly of AHRENSBURG or CAIRO class. Broadside probably four 5.9 guns and two torpedo tubes. Complete director system. Speed about 16½ knots.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1714Z/6, to Admty.)

Your 1325/6/12. Unknown ship sighted at 0642/5/12 and chased steering S.S.W. Slowly overhauled and at 0757 signalled by searchlight to stop but as she did not do so fired one warning round, at approx. range 17,500 yards, which fell short. Enemy turned 030 degrees to port and fired 4 gun salvoes, CARNARVON CASTLE turning to port and closing, but for 25 minutes (1714 says "20 minutes") enemy was out of our range, although she made good shooting.
At 14,000 yds. enemy was hit and for some time fired only one gun, being apparently on fire aft.
She reappeared from behind the smoke having turned to starboard and firing 4 gun salvoes. At 0830 observed the track of 2 torpedoes on slightly diverging courses and altered course to starboard torpedoes passed about 50 yards on each side.
Enemy was being hit up to this point, but about this time all CARNARVON CASTLE's control circuit and voice pipe and ammunition hoist motor were shot away, and accuracy of CARNARVON CASTLE's fire diminished very greatly. However enemy was again badly hit and her salvo reduced to one gun.
She made smoke and again showed signs of being on fire aft, turning away and being temporarily lost to sight.

/ At 0844 .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Report of Action. (contd.)

At 0944 at a range of 8,000 yards she reappeared with her port battery bearing and CARNARVON CASTLE was repeatedly hit being reported on fire amidship and in number two hold. At 0911 (1714 says 0910) decided to lengthen range in order to bring fire under control.
Smoke was made and range opened the enemy continuing to make good shooting up to a range of 18,000 yards.
When out of range and fire under control course was altered to endeavour to regain touch, but the enemy made smoke and disappeared in the haze. The fires in CARNARVON CASTLE were not completely out till 1115, and in view of damage decided to steer towards Montevideo.
Three compartments were flooded.

During the whole of the engagement the enemy appeared to avoid close action, and sustained at least 10 hits.
CARNARVON CASTLE suffered 23 direct hits two on the waterline and four others low enough to affect her seaworthiness.
The weather was hazy and while it is certain that the enemy sustained considerable damage and had two serious fires it was not possible to ascertain details.
Enemy fire was very rapid, at times reaching three salvoes to CARNARVON CASTLE's one.
All officers and men behaved in accordance with the highest tradition of the service.
(CARNARVON CASTLE 2101Z/6).

C.in C. South Atlantic's 0001/6 CARNARVON CASTLE commenced transmitting enemy reports on station H/F and 500 Kc/s at 1006 G.M.T. No signals were received by R.A.S.A.D. until 1228 G.M.T. and by QUEEN OF BERMUDA until after 1500 G.M.T.
N.O. i/c Falkland Isles and QUEEN OF BERMUDA report time of receipt and transmission frequency of any signals received from S. American Division 8th Atlantic Stn. between 1000 and 1800 G.M.T. Full report follows.
(R.A.S.A.D., 2346Z/6, to C.in C. S.A. etc.).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ENGLISH TRADER disabled.

Following received.
S.N.O. Freetown ENGLISH TRADER, require towing rudder post fractured. Drifting. Position 021° 08' N. 021° 12' W. 0015/6. (Ends.) (C.in C. S.A., 0212/6, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

My 2259/5. Portuguese authorities unable to send Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO. (N.C.S.O., St. Vincent, 1131/6 to C.in C. S.A.).

RESOLUTION VINDICTIVE

Departure 1000/6 RESOLUTION, VINDICTIVE, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND for Gibraltar in accordance with C.in C. South Atlantic's 1621/5. (S.O.I., Freetown 1037/6.) E.T.A. Gibraltar. (C.in C. S.A. 0859Z/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Germans at Fernando Po.

Arrival reported 1/12 at Fernando Po of SEAFOX from Data with eleven Germans on board. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1202/6).

ARAWA MORETON BAY.

Your 2224/5/12. Now that catapult is not to be fitted in either ship will not date of completion of H.M.S. ARAWA and H.M.S. MORETON BAY be earlier than now given. (C.in C. S.A., 1205/6, to Admty.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA ARNDALE ENTERPRISE

Leave Patrol now, proceed to pick up Oiler ARNDALE at sea rendezvous BLUE. Take 600 tons fuel from her at anchor P O then patrol 1232, entering Montevideo as arranged. Send Oiler ARNDALE to sea rendezvous ORANGE on completion. In case fuelling proves impossible you should if necessary anchor P O and I will try to advance date of visit to Montevideo. ENTERPRISE is proceeding into K 32 D then to K 33 C. Report completion of oiling otherise situation on P.M./10. (R.A.S.A.D.,1524Z/6, to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

Enemy M.V's.

List of German and Italian M.V's which have recently sailed or may sail in near future. (C.in C. S.A., to S.A. Sqdn., 1927/6).

MOOLTAN.

Your 1239/1. Propose that MOOLTAN be transferred to administration of some suitable authority in U.K. whilst undergoing long refit. (C.in C. S.A. 2025Z/6, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA — Under consideration to send MALAYA to join you, passing through Narrows about (date). Will you be able to co-operate about this date? Simultaneous return passage of 3 "Collar" M.T. ships also being considered. (C.in C. Med. to S.O. Force H., 1015/6).

Assistance to Turkey. — C.in C. Med. 1335/6 see Mediterranean Volume.

Air Reports. — H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1122/6. (No naval items). B.A.F.O., 1416/6 (No items. Weather very bad).

Spezia. — Your 1344/6 and my 1849/29/11. Information that dock at Spezia has been enlarged to take LITTORIO class battleships considered reliable. (D.N.I., 1439/6 to S.O. Force H).

GLASGOW. — Details of damage. Hoped to dock 9/12. Temporary repairs will take some weeks. Final repairs beyond capacity of station resources. (C.in C. Med., 1501/6) Torpedoing of GLASGOW. Although Italians claimed hitting 2 cruisers at Suda Bay, unlikely they have any confidence of hit at all, as ship proceeded Alexandria under own power and was not seen on passage. Consider incident should not be published nor a denial of Italian claim made. (C.in C. Med., 1503/6 to Admty.)

Lazaretto Base. — With arrival of "U" class S/M's, considered Lazaretto Base should become an independent command. Proposals. (V.A. Malta, 1543/6).

TETRARCH, TRITON — Orders for patrol (Capt. S.1, 1853/6).

UPHOLDER, USK, UNIQUE — My 1222/4. UPHOLDER leaves Portsmouth 10/12 and USK and UNIQUE 11/12 for Gibraltar. Due there (date). (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. Med., 1611/6).

Transport of Aircraft. — Your 1931/27. Arrangements for sending Swordfish and Fulmar a/c's to Gibraltar in ARGUS. (S S.L., 1615/6, to C.in C. Med.)

Valona bombed. — Operational Summary No. 25.
At 1130 hours G.M.T. 6/12 7 Blenheim aircraft No. 84 Sqdn. attacked the dockyards dumps and facilities at Valona. Munitions dump again hit also M.T. park. Black smoke seen from former target.
1 Battle Cruiser, 3 destroyers
1 15,000 ship and 10 smaller seen in harbour. (H.Q. B.A.F. Greece, 1720/6)

Greece. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1940.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Greece.

Santi Quaranta occupied by Greek forces 1030 this morning. (M.A. Athens to C.in C. M.E., 2007/6).

W.S.5A.

Your 20325 (Q(M)2.) cipher 25/11. (Arrangements for shipment of 13 T.L.C.s in Convoy W.S.5A.)
Confirm can accept thirteen in W.S.5A and balance in Routine Freighters.
(C.in C. M.E., 1935/6 to W.O.)

10th M.T.B. Flotilla.

Your 1647/2. Tentative arrangements being made to ship the 10th M.T.B. flotilla, of 7 - 58 ft. boats to the Mediterranean. Extemporised arrangements for maintenance must be made locally. The possibility of sending out VULCAN as M.T.B. depot ship is being examined. (Hd. of M. 2133/6 to C.in C. Med.).

East Indies.

BRITISH DUCHESS Suspicious Ship

Following has been received from Bombay Port W/T Mauritius.
SGRMGE BRITISH DUCHESS suspicious vessel (part missed) when sighted.
(Admiral, Colombo, 0505Z/6, to Admty.)

British ship BRITISH DUCHESS made following at 0503 G.M.T./6 (begins) Q Q Q Q 020° 44' S. 038° 49' E. suspicious vessel (portion not received) when sighted (ends). Neither an amplifying report nor a corrected version distress message have yet been received. (C.in C. E.I., 1024Z/6, to E.I. Sqdn.)

Dispositions.

My 1024/6 Following are dispositions of H.M. Ships in Mozambique Channel Area.
(a) CERES in approx. position 011° 40' S. 050° E. ? (at) 0600Z/6 proceeding towards position 020° S. 040° E. at 18 knots.
(b) SHROPSHIRE left Durban at 24 knots at about 1200Z/6 to cover shipping in Mozambique Channel as far (?north) as (? 020°) S.
(c) COLOMBO due Durban p.m./6 refuelling and awaiting orders.
(d) CORNWALL and KANIMBLA escorting W.S.4 A in approximate position 028° 50'S. 036 10' E. at 1030Z/6 speed 12 knots.
(e) CARTHAGE boiler cleaning at Durban.
(ii) Ships in paragraph one are to decode signals addressed to Force W.
(C.in C. E.I., 1404Z/6, to E. Indies Sqdn.)

/ My 1024/6 ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

My 1024/6 BRITISH DUCHESS cancelled distress message at 0833Z/6.
Ships now proceeding as follows (a) SHROPSHIRE to Durban at 15 knots.
(b) CERES in accordance with my 1216/2 arriving Seychelles 9/12.
(c) COLOMBO revert normal notice for steam.
S.N.O. Durban is requested revert Oiler OLCADES to normal notice.
(C.in C. E.I. 1942Z/6, to E.I. Sqdn.)

U.S. Ships.

Your 1527/1st noted, but it is only at a few ports on E.I. station with searched channels in force that pilots board ships before entering the searched channel and of these Mombasa is the only one likely to be visited by U.S.A. Ships.
(C.in C. E.I., 0622Z/6 to Admty.)

SHROPSHIRE.

My 0534/6 (to H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE only.)
As soon as ready proceed at 24 knots to give cover to shipping in Mozambique Channel as far north as 0200 South.
(C.in C. E.I., 0742Z/6).

Force T.
Oiler.

Admty. 1442/11, 1917/24 and 0036/25.
In view of the imminent formation of Force T and Strategic problem involved in providing protection for Shipping over long Ocean passages I consider another Oiler of good mobility is essential on East Indies Station. Details.
(C.in C. E.I., 1754/6 to Admty.)

Assab bombed.

Operational Summary 177 for 24 hours ending 1500, 6/12.
0915, 3 Blenheims attacked Assab transport yard probably doing no damage. Photograph reveals considerable structural damage due raids on same target on 24/11 and 25/11 besides destruction of 2 dumps by fires previously reported. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1843/6).

China.

Burma.

Japanese occupation of Thai air bases a possibility Danger of air attack on Burma. (C.in C. Far East, 2061/6).

Singapore Conference.

Your 2008/4. (Re Singapore Conference).
My 0911. (Received and circulated as 1911/31/10). First Nov. is my (NR)638.

M. de Schompre.

Enquiries lead me to believe De Schompre is quite suitable to represent De Gaulle in Far East. (C.in C. China, 0935Z/6 to Admty., etc.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PENNLAND
T.C.C.
NEW NORTHLAND.

My 1863/3 not to you or C.in C.S.A. Understand small quantity of cargo is being loaded in Jamaica by Royal Mail. Balance of space will be utilised at Halifax.
C.in C. A. and W.I. 1101/4. Understand fruit ships already programmed to load Jamaica with fruit for U.K. will do so and that to divert via Freetown would possibly spoil cargo.
If suggestion as to use of ships of Force K is inacceptable and there are no normal sailings to Freetown from Bermuda or Halifax only other opportunity would appear to be NEW NORTHLAND which will probably leave Halifax end of December for Freetown and which could be diverted to Jamaica. Undesirable that guard should come to U.K.
D. of S.T. 0129/6 to N.O.I.C. Kingston) Admty. 0129/6. Arrangements for sailing of fruit ships and payment for passage of troops. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1620/6 to Admty.)

D. of S.T's 0129/6 and my 1830/5 not to C.in C. S.A. Military guard will now be disembarked at Kingston.
Naval party will proceed in PENNLAND.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1020/6 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

NEW NORTHLAND.

Request reply to my 1215/26 (re use of NEW NORTHLAND for troop carrying) in view of reference to NEW NORTHLAND in your 0129/6 indicating he is required. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1111/6, to D. of S.T.).

PENNLAND.

Your 1126/4 received 0045/6. No cargo space available. Refrigerated space 1992 cubic feet all of which is required for troops' provisions. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1125/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

"Town" Class Destroyers

Remaining 6 ships additional to my 1717/26/11 commissioned yesterday 5/12 with H.M. Crew. SALISBURY and NEWMARKET divisional leader:- SALISBURY, NEWMARKET, RICHMOND, NEWARK, WELLS, NEWPORT. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 0937/6).

"Town"Class Destroyers.

Expect READING (S.O.) RAMSEY, RIPLEY and STANLEY to sail from St. John's Newfoundland on 8/12 (route)to Belfast in absence of other instructions. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1136/6 to Admty.)

/ Economic Warfare. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Economic Warfare. Your 1302/4. Following from M.E.W. Goods consigned to or from firms on War Trade Lists should not be removed from any repeat any Neutral ship plying between North and South America unless such goods are clearly of Enemy Origin. You will be informed immediately of any change of policy.
(D.E.W.D. 1336/6, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE. ADELAIDE left Sydney 2209Z/5 for Patrol off New South Wales Coast.
(A.C.N.B., 0628Z/6).

MANOORA. MANOORA escorting local transport ZEALANDIA left Thursday Island 0740Z/5 for Darwin.
(A.C.N.B., 0930Z/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.12.1940. Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

WINNETOU
ELSA ESSBERGER — German ships Kobe. WINNETOU and ELSA ESSBERGER left harbour 30/11. Former returned 5/12, no trace yet of latter. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0343Z/6 to Admty. amended 0754/10).

AEGINA. — 2447 tons, last reported in Adriatic, is to be put into service between Spanish ports and Genoa for fruit transport. (D.S. 459).

MADRID. — About 40 Germans of seafaring type who arrived by air at Las Palmas 3/12 may man ships in port, presumably MADRID, which is preparing to leave. (D.S.459).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

OLTENIA
LAVORO. — Your 1708/5. Spanish authorities are being informed that transfer of flag is not recognised and that if met on the high seas ships will be liable to be seized.
(Head of M. 2046/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

OLIMPIA. — 6040 tons, sent out S.O.S. 6/12 from a position somewhere in Adriatic or Eastern Mediterranean. (D.S. 459).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

FORFAR
(Torpedoed 2/12)

FORFAR Chronological Extracts from Narrative. All times G.M.T. Monday 2/12. 0330 Object sighted Starboard Beam and Captain called. 0353 ship struck by torpedo amidships starboard side abreast after funnal. Engines stopped due to damage immediately. Position 54° 19' N., 19° 54' W., At 0445 ship struck port side by second torpedo opposite position of first hit but higher. Ship began to settle. Third torpedo struck port side at 0450 further aft just under port cutter smashing this boat. Star shell fired by ship. At 0453 fourth torpedo struck port side under P. 2 boat. Third and fourth torpedoes were high. Ship commenced to split amidships on even keel. At 0455 fifth torpedo struck port side amidships H.A. magazine exploded. Ship breaking up, and two sections drifting apart and settling rapidly. Another smaller explosion reported two minutes later. From boats several groups star shell observed, presumed fired by submarine. At 0710

DUNSLEY

SS DUNSLEY sighted from boats, ship had become detached from Convoy S.X. 90 and had attempted to pick up survivors of another torpedoed ship. Whilst doing so ship had been shelled by a submarine and received slight damage, and some damage to cargo of pit props. 0930 two destroyers I 92 and H 83 made contact and were directed to position of rafts. Weather fine. Sky overcast slight S.W. wind and swell. Visibility moderate. 0106/6.

LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 2035/5 LOCH RANZA in position 055° 35' N., 006° 58' W., (ST. LAURENT 0001/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Detach one corvette to stand by LOCH RANZA at daylight somewhere between 055° 32' N., 008° 02' W., and Inishtrahull. ST LAURENT and THAMES are in company. On relief by Corvette ST LAURENT is to proceed to Clyde (C. in C., W.A., 0033/6 to WELLINGTON, ST. LAURENT)

My 0033 correct position 055° 35' N., 005° 58' W., (C. in C., W.A., 0216/6)

C. in C., W.A. 0033 and 0245 Stand by LOCH RANZA in position 055° 55' N., (WELLINGTON 0320/6 to HELIOTROPE)

/LOCH RANZA.....

MOST SECRET

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Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)
Contd.

LOCH RANZA 15 miles East of Inishtrahull. (LOCH RANZA 0944/6)

Received at 1540 G.M.T. DE LOCH RANZA. We are in Loch Indail, Islay, in immediate need of tug assistance, badly listed and not sure of anchorage. THAMES Tug is on the way here but cannot arrive before dark, Captain LOCH RANZA. (Port Patrick Radio, 1538/6 to Navycharge, Gree nock)

LOCH RANZA reports she is anchoring off Loch Indail, Islay. Salvage tug THAMES proceeding to her. My position is Rue Point Rathlin Is. Steering back along route K 10 knots. Request instructions. (HELIOTROPE, 1545/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

RAJAHSTAN
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Following has been read from RAJAHSTAN. Funnel gone both boats smashed bearing from GFK 306 all from GLV 313 de GKU (Port Patrick Radio 0953/6)

S.O.S. RAJAHSTAN approx. position 55.48 N., 7.25 W., funnel stove in, can't steam, both lifeboats smashed, tugs necessary. (Port Patrick Radio, 1011/6)

(Unknown)
LADY GLANELLY
VICTOR ROSS
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Following ships were torpedoed and no further information has been received as to ships or survivors:-
54° 23' N., 20° 11' W., 0415/2 55° 00' W., 0957/2 56° 04' N., 18° 30' W.,.
(C. in C., W.A. 1126/6 to HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICANE)

PALMELLA
(? date)

Ministry of Marine informs me that Spanish Vessel arrived Lisbon last night with 28 survivors of British steamer PALMELLA (N.A. Madrid, 1145/6)

GWALIA
(Torpedoed 2/12?)

It is possible Swedish GWALIA (O.G. 46) may also have been torpedoed in early hours of 2/12 N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports ship has not arrived there (F.O.C.N.A., 1604/6 to Admty.)

Arrived ST LAURENT with about 100 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1954/6)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0225	About 60° N., W of 15° W., indefinite (D.S. 458)
1240	D.F., U-Boat in 52.00 N.,to 53.00 N., and W. of 20.00 W., (C. in C., W.A., 1352/6 to HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICANE)
1853	D.F., probable U-Boat, 55.20 N., 10.40 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1920/6)
1215	U-Boat sighted in 60.30 N., 08.54 W., at 1215 today. (A.C.O.S. 2140/6 Sighted by REPULSE, probably Italian D.S. 459)
1809	About 52° N., 15°-20° W., indefinite position (D.S. 459)
Estimated U-Boat Dispositions	Italian- 1 off Cape Spartel 2143/3 probably bound for Azores Area. 1 was 250 miles west of Lisbon on 3rd and may still be patrolling. 1 west of Spain bound for Bordeaux. 2 or possibly 3 in North West Approaches whereabouts unknown. German- 1 in Finisterre Area probably bound for Lorient. 1 about 48° N., 6° West bound for Lorient 1 has arrived in area North of 55° N., and East of 15° West. 1 was in about 53° N., 18° W., to 19° W., at 1650/5. 1 about 55° N., 20° W., at 0403/5. 1 in area 60° N., to 60° 30' N., 16° W., to 18° W., at 0225/6. 1 probably patrolling north of 61° E., of 20° West. 1 more in North West Approaches whereabouts unknown (D.D.I.C. 1336/6)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

SEAL

A German broadcast today claimed that H.M.S. SEAL, which was captured after being mined in the Kattegat in May, has been commissioned for service as a U-Boat.

Cable to America

The cable communications between London and America were interrupted by severance of a land line by enemy bomb, from 2345/6 h 7/12.

Convoy F.N. 53

This convoy, which sails at 0800 is expected to exceed 60 ships. Hunt Class destroyers are to form additional escort.

British Air Operations

Bomber Command

Successful attacks were delivered on Channel ports last night. Zeebrugge and oil tanks at Brest were bombed today; results were not observed.

Coastal Command

Brest, Lorient and Cherbourg were attacked this evening, the two former with success; results at Cherbourg were not seen.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy attacks last night were delivered against the Bristol and Portsmouth areas.

Enemy air activity today was on a very small scale. No attacks on shipping are reported.

Mining

Operations
ZME 4
S.N. 10 A

ADVENTURE laid mines this evening in the declared area south of St. Georges Channel. This operation was carried out today (see 5/12)

M/S Trawler
CAPRICORNUS
Damaged

M/S Trawler CAPRICORNUS was damaged by near mine explosion this evening and was beached near Nore L.V.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

1200 French Foreign Legion are to be moved from Duala to Port Sudan in CASAMANCE and CAPO OLMO.

CARNARVON CASTLE Action

C. in C., South Atlantic considers that CARNARVON CASTLE's action with a raider on 5/12 emphasises the importance of A.M.C.'s being fitted with longer range guns.

Mediterranean

Tripoli was attacked by 11 Wellingtons this afternoon, Castel Benito aerodrome, where several air craft were destroyed, being the principal objective.

Blenheims attacked Valona three times today In the first attack, a large ship was hit and bombs burst in the dockyard area.

Photographic reconnaissance of Naples today showed 2 battleships and 5 cruisers in harbour, and several destroyers in dry dock.

Italian Reinforcements

R.C. today showed a large number of transports and merchantmen newly arrived at Valona (These were perhaps the ships described in R.C. yesterday as a "battle-cruiser", 3 destroyers and merchant vessels) Many other ships, including large transports were seen disembarking troops at Krioness, in Valona Bay.

A large convoy escorted by several destroyers is reported to have left Trieste today for Albania (B.2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

China

The Norwegian crew of the tanker OLE JACOB (captured last month) have been landed by the Germans at Kope and the ship sailed p.m. 5/12

Australia

The British ship HERTFORD was mined today in the Approaches to Adelaide and was towed to Spalding Cove, Port Lincoln.

America & West Indies

REVENGE reports she has not met Convoy S.C. 14 after a 24 hour search in poor visibility, and that bad weather persists. She has resumed her passage.

U-Boat Campaign

A preliminary investigation by Capt. D. Liverpool into the attack on H.X. 90 on 2/12 states that a U-Boat was probably destroyed by FOLKESTONE after torpedoing STIRLINGSHIRE.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

Saturday.
7th December 1940.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Home Fleet. A/A Precautions. — When in harbour ships are to be prepared to destroy floating flares. Details. (C. in C.H.F. 0931/7 to Home Fleet 76.Z).

ICARUS — On return to Immingham is to replace Gun Armament but not Torpedo Tubes (A.C.N.S.H. 1127/7 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

Plymouth Air Decoy. — Sites to be settled and reported and work to proceed (D. of L.D. 1148/7 to C. in C. W.A.) Request representative of C.E. in C. Bath may visit Plymouth to give technical advise. (D. of L.D. 1150/7 to C.E. in C. Bath).

Comprehensive scheme has been prepared and is being put into effect. Request you concur all communications be arranged locally and subsequently reported (D. of L.D. 1219/7 to Air Ministry).

Channel Striking Force. — Your 1810/6. It is understood that the designed speed of 6th D.F. is only half a knot higher than that of 5th D.F.

Whether 5th or 6th D.F. — 2. Unless 6th are actually about 2 knots faster than 5th consider exchange would not be an advantage as the C.O.'s of 5th are now familiar with the conditions, and enemy's tactics, in the Channel and have benefitted from action experience.

3. As efficiency for night action is of the first importance for the Channel Striking Force, all destroyers in it should be fitted with A.S.V. or R.D.F. Two of 5th are fitted with A.S.V. Request that this may also be taken into account when considering the change. (C. in C. W.A. 1230/7 to Adty)

Your 1810/6 6th D.F. have an advantage in speed of one to one and a half knots which is not considered sufficient to offset the disadvantage of their larger silhouette and the loss of experience of the C.O's of the 5th D.F. in Channel waters.

The 6th D.F. are better sea boats and for that reason I would prefer to retain them for working with the Battle Cruisers. I suggest success or failure depends almost entirely on the standard of night fighting efficiency. (C. in C. H.F. 1601/7 to Adty).

/Dutch...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy contd.

Dutch Warships. HEEMSKIRK ISAAC SWEERS.

It has been arranged with the Dutch authorities that the Cruiser HEEMSKIRK and Destroyer ISAAC SWEERS, completing at Portsmouth and Southampton in February 1941 and March 1941 respectively, are provisionally allocated to the Command of C. in C. W.A. for service with the Plymouth Striking Force. (1st S.L. 1258/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

A/C at Hatston.

Your 1355/6 816 and 825 Squadrons are training.

3. Experience has shown difficulty of efficiently combining training and operations at Hatston, and it is strongly recommended that the squadrons be brought to a higher state of training before being employed operationally.

4. Consider that by mid January 816 Squadron should be sufficiently trained to move to Hatston for operations and 825 can complete their training at Hatston. Propose that both squadrons move to Hatston about 15/1. (R.A.N.A.S. 1316/7 to Adty).

4th M.A/S.B. Flotilla.

C. in C. W.A. 1852/5. Propose boats of 4th M.A/S.B. Flotilla on completion of repairs be temporarily assigned to FOWEY. If approved it is essential that Oerlikon guns be retained. (R.A.C.F. 1640/7 to Adty).

Fishing in Iceland. Prohibited area.

A.T. 0221/31/8. Reports have been received that fishing has been taking place, in particular by Icelandic and Faroese vessels, inside the prohibited area off the East Coast of Iceland.

2. It is of great importance that this area should not be compromised. Steps are to be taken to prevent fishing inside this area. Any permission given to fish within the area should be withdrawn.

3. Local craft may continue to be routed through this area in accordance with A.T. 2525/13/7. (Hd. of M. 1949/7)

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At. 1130/7 (D.C. 1151/7) At 2330/7 (D.C. 2340/7)

Scapa. A/A Defenses. Your X.179 6/12 and this Headquarters A.11 6/12. Submit the request for 232 Flight to be brought to full squadron strength be given urgent consideration (H.Q.F.C.1735/7 to Air Ministry).

Movements.

VANITY E.T.A. 20. C. Buoy 0300/8 (VANITY 0931/7 to N.O.I.C. Tyne) My 0931 5 hours late (VANITY 1650/7 to N.O.I.C. Tyne).

SABRE. Arrived Londonderry 6/12 (Capt.D. Londonderry 0053/7 to Adty)

ICARUS Sailed E.T.A. North Goodwin 0815 (C in C. Portsmouth 0203/7) My 1302 Pass Aldeburgh Light Float at 1700/7 and arrive Humber Light Vessel not before 0400/8 (C in C. Nore 0700/7 to ICARUS).

Nore. Ships out of Action My 0940/2. Delete GARTH. Insert JACKAL, Humber, 1/1/41 (C. in C. Nore 0740/7).

QUORN. Sailed 0745/7 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0751/7).

Nore. Dispositions for Night 7/8 (C. in C. Nore 0800/7)

SIKH
BEAGLE Returned Scapa 0100 from Screening RODNEY (A.C.C.S. 0931/7.)

RUBENS. for Gibraltar. On completion A/S trawler RUBENS is to be sailed to Tobermory to work up and then to Gibraltar in first available convoy joining the 7th A/S Goup on arrival. (D.A.S.W. 1040/7 to N.O.I.C. Blyth).

FURIOUS. My 1852/5. On arrival in U.K. to proceed to Liverpool for boiler-cleaning and repairs to brick-work. Should be ready to sail 28/12 (V.C.N.S. 1142/7).

/COSSACK .....

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (contd.).

COSSACK.
SIKH.

Proceed, passing Swiths 0900/8, to R/V in 55°N 22'W at 1000/11 B.S.T. with RAMILLIES, FURIOUS, CALIFORNIA, FRANCONIA, and provide additional Escort to Clyde. Adty. 2258/3 and 1734/6. C. in C. W.A. 1255/6 (R.A.D. 1357/7 to D.4.).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

To be moved to Rosyth westabout at earliest opportunity. Report date when ready to sail. (Controller 1159/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

HECLA
TYNE
MAIDSTONE

HECLA has been allocated as Destroyer Depot Ship at Clyde and will proceed there as soon as possible without completing W/T equipment. TYNE will complete about 20/2/41 and it is desired to keep MAIDSTONE at Scapa till relieved by TYNE. Request your concurrence (V.C.N.S. 1259/7 to V.A.S.) Concur (V.A.S. 1749/7).

VOLUNTEER

Sailed 1020. E.T.A. Falmouth 1315 (C. in C. W.A. 1304/7) Arrived (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1330/7)

PEGASUS

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1422/7)

Orkneys

Movements tonight (F.O.C.O.S. 1536/7)

FORMIDABLE
DOUGLAS.
KEPPEL.
VIMY

FORMIDABLE's 1712/6 Cancel my 1510/5 BEVERLEY and BURNHAM are not available (C. in C. W.A. 1552/7 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) My 0957/5 You will be required with DOUGLAS and KEPPEL to escort FORMIDABLE from Clyde to Scapa leaving 10/12. (R.A.D. H.F. 2209/7 to VIMY) When released from present duties, proceed to Clyde and complete with oil-fuel. (R.A.D. H.F. 2223/7 to DOUGLAS, KEPPEL).

Portsmouth

Night Movements 7/8 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1557/7).

SHIKARI

Arrived Londonderry (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1645/7)

Western Channel.

Night Report. (C. in C. W.A. 1648/7)

RAMILLIES

My 1719/6 (Docking of Ship) For Portsmouth read Devonport. (D.O.D. H. 1711/7 to C. in C. W.A).

/KENT.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

KENT. C. in C. S.A. 1317/6. To proceed to Devonport for repairs. Should be routed independently from 52°N. (Controller 1712/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

WOLVERINE Sailed. E.T.A. Londonderry 0800/8 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1909/7).

ANTELOPE. Sailed. E.T.A. Liverpool 0900/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2124/7)

Nore. Movements to 1200/8 (C. in C. Nore 1200/7).

Rosyth. Movements for Night 7/8. (C. in C. Rosyth 1614/7 and 1810/7).

Operations

Operation. MONSOON. My 1852/5. FURIOUS will not now be required to sial for Operation MONSOON on 17/12, but should complete loading A/C and be ready to sail on 28/12. (V.C.N.S. 1142/7 to FURIOUS).

Admiralty's 1142/7 and my 1426/4. Escort by RAMILLIES permits boiler cleaning on passage. Estimate 12 boilers clean by 19/12 and ship ready to sail MONSOON next day.

If however Admiralty's 1142/7 stands request 150 seamen, 30 Royal Marines and 60 engine room ratings on arrival at Liverpool for embarkation of stores and aircraft, sentries, and manning close range weapons. (FURIOUS 2140/7 to Adty).

Raider sweep to intercept. My 0445/7 H.F. C.C.N.A. see North Atlantic. Request you will arrange for DERBYSHIRE, CIRCASSIA and CALIFORNIA to carry out a sweep to the eastern limit of areas F.3, G.3, and H.3. 2. Object to intercept possible raider. 3. Ships are to return to their present areas on completion. (D.C.D.F. 1318/7 to F.C.C.N.P).

Carry out Adty. 1318/7 forthwith. (F.O.C.N.P. 1416/7 to DERBYSHIRE, CIRCASSIA, CALIFORNIA).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued).

Your 1214/7. ROBERT MAERSK made raider signal when challenged. When identified was instructed to cancel raider signal and permitted to proceed. Today second vessel seen but not identified. (CIRCASSIA 1439/7 to F.O.C.N.P.).

Cancel my 1318/7 (D.O.D.F. 1841/7 to F.O.C.N.P.)
Cancel my 1416/7 (F.O.C.N.P. 2230/7.).

Knob Light Vessel. Was boarded on 19/11 by the Trinity House Authorities. The crew of this Light Vessel had been previously withdrawn. On boarding it was found all deck house doors had been forced open. 2. Request. you report whether any of H.M. Ships boarded the Light Vessel, and if so under what circumstances, or whether you have any other information which could throw light on this matter. (D.O.D.H. 1506/7 to C. in C. Nore).

Troop Embarkation. Admiralty 1703/27/11 and 1501/9/11. ROYAL SCOTSMAN is to sail with GLENGYLE and GLENROY to Lamlash and is to act as overflow personnel ship as required. It is anticipated that up to 30 officers and 300 men and 5 cinema operators may require accommodation. Ship is to remain at 48 hours' notice in accordance with A/T 1501/9/11 para 1. (D.O.D.H. 1507/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Iceland. HONNINGSVAAG escorting TORDENSKJOLD sailed for Reydarbjordr (F.O. Iceland 1730/7 to Adty). Until further orders the Examination Service Vessel at Reykjavik will patrol in about Engey Bank Light 300° 6½ cables (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1835/7 to Adty).

Submarines.

TAKU. My position at midnight 46°13'N 3°3'W Full gale (TAKU 0101/7)

WHITE BEAR. 19 hours early (WHITE BEAR 0358/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock 2002/7 to S.9).

/URGE.....

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Continued.)

URGE. Replace propellors being fitted, involving 24 hours delay. Intend sailing 11/12 (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1540/7)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/8 (V.A.S. 1714/7)

Greenock Area. Positions (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1732/7)

O.14. Request she be sailed Tobermory to arrive Dundee 22/12, and Escort provided (Capt S.7 1858/7 to WESTERN ISLES).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 2244/30. Air Patrols to-day as follows. Also R/C of Narvik. (C in C Rosyth 0134/7.
2 Blenheim A/C leave Dyce at daylight to carry out sweep Flamborough Head and return (C. in C. Rosyth 0716/7 to ships) My. 0134/7 R.C. of Narvik cancelled (C. in C. Rosyth 0738/7) Cancel my 0830/4. Commencing 8/12 Following A/S Air Patrols will be flown A.M. daily, weather permitting. Sydero Patrol and Muggy Patrol. Details (C. in C. Rosyth 1300/7 to Ships) My. 2244/30. Amend preamble to read that Patrols decided upon will be signalled when it is known that they are likely to be flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1350/7). Assessments. (C. in C. Rosyth 1956/7).

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber. Your 1927/4 (Attack on G.H. Auxiliary Patrol) Following report dated 5/12 from Commandeth York. (Hofor 0945/7 to Adty).

Portsmouth. Your 1741/4. Air Raid of 1940 to 2000/6. Few small Bombs. Slight damage and few casualties. (C in C. Portsmouth 1000/7 to Adty).

Skelligs. At 1325/3 Trawlers SLEBECK and WILLIAM DOWNS were attacked by A/C while fishing 5 miles W.N.W. of Skelligs. 7 Bombs and Machine-gun. Superficial damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1120/7 to Adty).

/Enemy A/C .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

Enemy A/C daily over Irish ports.

Many Skippers of Trawlers fishing off coast of Ireland report a German plane passes over Ballycotton and Irish ports at about 1330 daily, and a searchlight from Queenstown operates nightly. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1121/7 to Adty).

Your 1121/7 Request description of A/C be obtained. Also usual course and average height. (D.D.I.C. 1817/7 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Mining.

Z.M.E.4.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1800 today, lay about 2030, returning Milford Haven 2300 (ADVENTURE 1018/7) Completed (ADVENTURE 2120/7)

SUPREMITY. (mined 1900/6)

(British, 554 Tons) Reported mined. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1842/7 to C. in C. Nore) 1900/6. 3 cables W.S.W. charted position East onze L.V. No. casualties (Cdre i/c Sheerness 1731/7).

CAPRICORNUS.

(M/S Trawler) Damaged by close Mine, now beached close East of East Cant Buoy. Request salvage party. (C in C Nore 2301/7 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ
BISMARCK.
Tank positions.

Following from Navy Department. From Berlin, dated 31/10. Air Marshal sent Foreign Naval Attache, it was learned TIRPITZ is at Wilhelmshaven and BISMARCK is at Gotenhafen TIRPITZ is camouflaged to represent the red brick building which is her background at pier. Masts, f.c. stations, stacks etc. are painted brick coloured with black squares two by three metres representing windows. Decks are painted to resemble a house top when seen from above. Large number of pontoons (Floats) large enough to transport tanks are being built at Wilhelmshaven. (N.A. Washington 1220/7).

/M.V's off.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.40. Saturday..

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (continued).

M/V's off Norwegian Coast.	Aircraft report 6000 tons motor ship at anchor Aalesand Harbour. At 1130 2000 tons Motor Ship 062° 33'N 006° 12' E Course 360° 10 knots. 4000 tons Motor Ship 062° 39'N 006° 41'E Course 260° 12 Knots. 2000 tons Motor Ship 062 45'N 006° 50'E. (V.A.S 1441/7 to SUNFISH).
Brest	3 Destroyers and presumed Floating Dock (H.Q.C.C. 1715/7).
TEMPLAR.	My 0150/29. Report graded c.3. states crew on board by 18/11 and expected leave Hamburg by 30/11. (D.N.I. 1747/7) Reports graded C.3. state speed 14½ knots and fited out as A.M.C. (F.O.C.N.P. 2251/7 to Northern Patrol).
TULANE.	(Norwegian, 5485 Tons) Report graded B.2. states is fitting out as A.M.C. Speed 16 knots. Probable armament six 4.1 inch Guns, A/A Guns, and searchlights. (D.N.I. 1747/7).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ROYSTON. (British, 2722 Tons) Ashore at Palling at 0056/7 G.M.T. Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER sent at 0240 and Tug LOWESTOFT from Lowestoft also being sent (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0310/7 to C. in C. Nore) Tug LOWESTOFT sailed 0815/7 (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0840/7 to Adty).

SANDWICH. (Sloop) Have lost contact with O.B. 254. My position 55° 43'N. 7° 38'W. Asdic cabinet flooded and depth-charge release gear damaged. Am proceeding to Liverpool. (SANDWICH 0330/7 and 1000/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

CHEVREUIL. (French Minesweeper) Arrived with Engine-Room defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0911/7).

TABARISTAN, (British, 6251 Tons)
HARLESDEN (British, 5483 Tons)
ADAMAS. (Greek, 4144 Tons)
MERCHANT (British, 4615 Tons).
(Convoy S.C.13)

Your 1840/6. Remainder of Escort should endeavour to locate Convoy and ship in distress. Positions of Ships as follows (C. in C. W.A. 0804/7 to WELLINGTON, CLARKIA, SCIMITAR).
My position 55° 20'N 9° 20'W. Intend to pass through position of ADAMAS and Ships East of Inishtrahull in your 0804/7 and search along North Irish Coast. Must refuel this evening. (SCIMITAR 1000/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

AGHIA EIRINI. (Greek, 4330 Tons) Your 2039/6. Am hove to in 55°N 35°52'W at 1051. Holds full of water. S.O.S. (Plymouth 1135/7) Request you sail Tug ASSURANCE to assist in 54°6'N 18° 18'W (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1738/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

VESPER. Lost touch with O.B. 254 in severe gale. Flooded oscillator and punctured dome. Hove to in 56°N. 10°W. (VESPER 0900/7 to C.in C. W.A.).

UNBEATEN. My 1531/6. Still ashore. Tug unable to help owing to weather which is now moderating. (VAS. 0951/7 to Adty) Particulars (VAS. 1522/8) Refloated (S.3. 2047/8. to V.A.S.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

STOLLWIJK	(Dutch, 2489 Tons). On rocks between Imishdovy and Imishborin, Ireland. Breaking up. No boat. Please take crew off. (F.O.Humber 1005/7 to Adty).
HURRICANE.	Cancel my 1930/6. (Escort for HURRICANE). Comply with my 1226/6. (C. in C. W.A. 1112/7 to HESPERUS).
GUINEAN.	(British, 5205 Tons). Sailed Tug PRUDENT to assist off Girvan. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1127/7). No longer needs help. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1622/7).
GARLAND.	Asdic out of action and stern compartment flooded in 55° 40' 30" N. 10° 55' W. (GARLAND 1130/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
ASHCREST.	(British, 5652 Tons) Proceed to assist in 55°N. 9° 8' W. Drifting at 0920. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1131/7 to ENGLISHMAN). Position at 1438 was 54° 50' N. 9° 7' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1720/7 to ENGLISHMAN). Rudder broken. S.O.S. (Valentia Radio 1848/7). A/C report position at 1353 today 55° 3' N. 9° 2' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1915/7 to STELLA POLARIS, ENGLISHMAN) Tug essential. Position at 0700 about 55° 10' N. 10° W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0710/8 to Adty). Proceeding to ASHCREST 7 knots (ENGLISHMAN 0825/8) Pumps unable cope with water. (ASHCREST 1019/8).
TULIP.	(Corvette). Damaged by grounding and collision. Details. Request dockyard destination. (WESTERN ISLES 1601/7 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).
DIONYSSIOS STRATHATOS.	(Greek, 5168 Tons). Lose rudder and stern-post Rush assistance. Position 58° N. 26° 30' W. (Recd. via D.T.D.1605/7).(D.T.D.1312/8 to C. in C. W.A.)
WALKER.	Position 58° 10' N. 11° 40' W. Am damaged. Asdic compartment flooded and oil-tank leaking. Will probably require docking. (WALKER 1632/7 to C.in C. W.A.)
GORSETHORN.	Abandoned at anchor in 284° Bar Light Vessel 14½ miles, Liverpool Bay. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1801/7 to Adty).
ROYAL SCOTSMAN.	Vessel dragged her anchors yesterday and drove into ROYAL SCOTSMAN. Damage to bows. Every effort will be made to render her seaworthy in 24 hours from 1000/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1855/7 and F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2209/7 to Adty.) Completes temporary repairs 1000/9 at Greenock (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1919/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (CONTD:)

BRIGAND. (Reserve Tug) Arrived Kirkwall with defects. (A.C.O.S.1914/7 to Adty).

HOPESTAR. (British,5267 Tons) Sailed Tug PRUDENT to assist in Belfast Lough (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2201/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

LORMONT (Ex-Guardship) } Lost by collision. (F.O. Humber 2310/7 to Adty).
CORTINA (M/S Trawler) } (F.O.Humber 1119/8).

ACCOMAC. (347 tons) Ashore Belfast Lough. Boiler exploded. Total loss. (D.O.R.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys

Estimated positions 0900/7.(D.T.D. to C.in C. H.F., 1039/7).

W.N.49.

Your 0707 (? FERNIE) sailed Aberdeen 2330 Northwards convoying W.N.49,O passed Buchaness 2315 convoying W.N.49,C passed Kinneard Head 0240.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0100/7 to BRIGAND).
My 1845/6 Clyde Section W.N.49 Bell Rock 12 miles at noon. E.t.a. Bell Rock 1300 May Is.1530, Elie Ness 1710. (ULLSWATER 1230/7 to C. in C. Rosyth) Arrivals. SAON with W.N.49 Obar portion. ULLSWATER, RUMBA, JASON with W.N.49 Clyde portion. Carrier FOSSBECK, Boom trawlers DOCTOR LEE. IMELDA ex W.N.49 from Scapa. (C. in C.Rosyth 2355/7).

F.S.54.

Sailed 0200. (F.O.I.C.Tyne 0202/7).

O.B.254.

Have lost contact with O.B.254 in heavy weather. Damaged. (SANDWICH, 0330/7 to C. in C. W.A.) (See also S.L.56).

F.N.52)
F.N.53)
F.S.53)
F.S.54)

Movements to 1200/8. F.N.52 Outer Dowsing 1200/7. F.N.53 Aldeburgh 2000/7. F.S.53 near Cromer Knoll 1200/7. F.S.54 Outer Dowsing 1800/7. (C. in C. Nore, 1200/7).

E.N.37)
F.S.55)
F.N.52)

Movements tonight 7/8. E.N.37 escorted by CURAOA, Banff 2000/7. F.S.55 Whitby 1900/7. F.N.52. e.t.a. 20 C buoy 0800/8.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1614/7 amended 1810/7).

F.N.53

Departure to join F.N.53, 7/12 group 31 A/T's, CURTANA, BRACONMOOR, CARISBROOK, GEORGE ROBB at 1715. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1740/7).
Departure 7/12 TARANSAY (Yacht) to join F.N.53 at 1725. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1757/7).

H.X.93.

Route amended. AURANIA returns to Halifax when relieved by RODNEY. Escort LUPIN.
(D.T.D. 1203/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.14.

Your 1802/2. S.C.14 not met after 24-hour search. Visibility poor, bad weather persists. Passage resumed. (REVENGE,2256/7).

F.N. 54.)
F.N. 55.)

My 1641/1 and 1019/6. F.N.54 cancelled. Amend escort to F.N.55 to read LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON, WOLFHOUND, WALLACE (C. in C. Rosyth 1537/7).

O.B.255

Sailed 1300/7. 8 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey (1446/7).

....E.N.38.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.40. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (Contd:)

H.N.38	Sailing 2200/8, 16 ships (11 overseas) escorts PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE (N.C.S.O.Methil 1652/7).
S.C.15	Cancel my 1222/5. CILICIA leave Clyde 2300/8 to R/V with S.C.15 (position) and act as ocean escort. Admty. requested to inform CILICIA of route time and position of R/V. (F.O.C.N.P. 1842/7 to CILICIA).
S.L.58 (Slow).	Sailed 1300/7 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1817/7).
H.X.91.	Not met. 0300 059° 00' N. 013° 30' W. 119° (HONEYSUCKLE, 0440/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
S.C.13.	Your 1840/6, remainder of escort should endeavour to locate convoy and ship in distress. (TABARISTAN) position at 1222/6 055° 47' N. 007 20' W. (HARLESDEN) position at 0745/6 20 miles S. of Skerryvore. ADAMAS position at 0921/6 10 miles N.W. of Tory Island. MERCHANT position at 1144/6 15 miles E. of Inistrahull. (C. in C. W.A., 0804/7 to WELLINGTON).
S.L.56.	Return Londonderry refuel then proceed to meet S.L.56 further orders follow. (C. in C. W.A. 1012/7 to VESPER).
O.B.254 S.L.56.	Proceed along track of convoy O.B.254 covering any stragglers then proceed to escort S.L.56 meet signal follows. (C. in C. W.A. 1020/7 to GARLAND, LADY LILIAN).
S.L.56	BULOLO to leave S.L.56 at Noon/8 and proceed independently to Greenock (route). (C. in C. W.A. 1438/7 to BULOLO).
	Sail BEVERLEY, BURNHAM to meet S.L.56 when ready. (C.in C. W.A. 1554/7 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).
	My position 056° 27' N. 022° 28' W. Shall be unable to R/V with S.L.56 in daylight today. Intend meet them at daylight 8/12. If convoy is not late shall be able to remain with them for 48 hours before returning for fuel. (HESPERUS, 1220/7 to C.in C. W.A.)
S.L.56 S.L.57	C. in C. S.A. 1905/5 A.M.1142/6 instruct BULOLO and CANTON where to leave convoys and route them to Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1954/6 to C. in C. W.A.).

.....F.N.52.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (Contd:)

F.N.52 — Humber 7/12:- Departure M/S Trawler ORMONDE 0900 to join F.N.52 thence Aberdeen. (F.O. Humber 1202/7 to Admty).

S.L.58 — Departures 1200 7/12 KENT (with BRIDGEWATER and TURCO MAN as local escort) escorting convoy S.L.58 in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1317/6. (S.O.(1).Freetown 1437N/7 to Admty).

F.N.54
F.N.55 — F.N.54 cancelled. Ships will sail at 0800/9 as F.N.55 (Fast). Southend may sail up to 60 ships. Escorts LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON, WOLFHOUND, WALLACE.
(C. in C. Nore, 1500/7 to N.C.S.O.Southend).

Salvage Tug MESSUS will sail join F.N.54 9/12. (F.O. Humber 1555/7 to Admty).

E.N.38
W.N.51 — Sail 1430 8/12 for Methil act subsequently as additional A.A. escort to E.N.38 sailing 2200/8. On meeting transfer to W.N.51 due Cape Wrath 2130/10 and Duncansby 1130/11. Keep steam at immediate notice off Methil and be prepared to slip cable as necessary to engage enemy aircraft.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2217/7 to FOWEY).

4 M.V's. — Intend sail F.S. BRANLEBAS, A/S Trawlers VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE escorting 4 M/V's for Dartmouth. E.t.d. Needles 1715, e.t.a. Dartmouth 0815/7. Request for lights. Requested you take F.S. BRANLEBAS under your command on arrival.
(C.inC. Portsmouth 1227/7 C.in C. W.A.)

My 1227/7. Sailed three M/V's escorted by F.S. BRANLEBAS. A/S Trawlers VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1827/7 to Admty).

JOKULL — Your 0029/27/11 and my 1200/1. Careful investigation by British Naval Authorities and Icelandic Maritime Court has acquitted JOKULL of deliberate breaking of seal. Method of sealing will be improved.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland,1630/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

NALGORA. — Proceed 1100/8 and escort S.S.NALGORA from Methil to Clyde sailing at about 1400 speed about 10 knots. On arrival off Toward Point part company and proceed to Tobermory. E.t.a. Clyde 2359/10.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1711/7 to PELICAN).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Gaboon.

Gaboon situation report.
Arrival of ships containing food etc., and early resumption of wood shipments would wipe our recent past and Gaboon should rapidly take its place amongst loyal F.F. colonies.
(20 M.M, Brazzaville, 0900/7 to W.O.)

North Atlantic.

Azores.
ARK ROYAL.

F.O.C.N.A.0316/7, D.D.I.C. 0005/7 see 6/12. My 1501/5. Intend proceeding to sea in ARK ROYAL a.m. 9/12 to witness flying exercises, returning a.m. 11/12. (S.O. Force H. 0939/7 to Adty).

RAMILLIES.
ARGUS.
FURIOUS.
~~Lot.~~ Etc.,

RAMILLIES, ARGUS, KELVIN, ECLIPSE, VELOX, WRESTLER, ?FRANCONIA sail 1230/7 in accordance with Adty. 2222/5 and C.in C. S.A. 0959/3. R/V with FURIOUS, DIDO (position 1030 zone - 1, 9/12. VOLEX? part company? darkness 9/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1232/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

Force H.
Proposed
Operations.

Ref. Admty. 1615/6 and C.in C. Med. 1015/6. Force H. re composition and proposed operations. (S.O.Force H, 1351/7 to C.in C. Med).
(See Med. Volume.)

Military Transport. Admty. 2324/14/11. Re passage of convoys (proposals). (S.O.Force H, 2105/7 to C.in C. Med.)

Operation.

My 1344/5. Suggested operation and request for battleship re-inforcement (S.O.Force H. 2218/7 to Adty).
(See Med. Volume).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
North Atlantic.

Suspicious Vessels. Azores.

Your 1824/6. These ships are not British (D.D.I.C. 0005/7 to N.A. Lisbon).

N.A.Lisbon's 1824/6 to be passed to you by F.O.C.A. SHEFFIELD proceed with despatch to Azores patrol. EDINBURGH is to proceed round San Miguel keeping out of sight of land and then in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 0140/6. (D.O.D.(F) 0031/7 to SHEFFIELD, EDINBURGH).

Suspicious Signal.

Following was read Gibraltar W/T time of receipt 2349/6 (begins) From GNKG please cancel my R R R,R (ends). As this message had a totally different note from R R R R received by Gibraltar W/T at 2303/6 from MAERSK and as no ship with signal letters can be found this cancellation should be regarded with suspicion. (F.O.C.N.A. 0033/7 to N.A. Station).

ROBERT MAERSK made distress signal when challenged by CIRCASSIA. The second vessel sighted was not identified. (D.O.R. 8/12).

Your 0033/7. An armed merchant cruiser from Western Patrol should investigate this matter. (D.C.0145/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

F.O.C.N.A. 0033/7. ROBERT MAERSK reported attacked by 2 ships at 2303/6 in 041° 00'N., 020° 22'W. Investigate and report. (F.O.C.N.P. 1214/7 to CIRCASSIA).

CANTON M.V. Intercepted.

Intercepted darkened small motor boat ship in position 029° 26'N., 021° 07'W at 0127 on course 120° not answering signal. Vessel altered to 110° and barely cleared convoy. Lost contact avoiding convoy. Am rejoining convoy.
(CANTON 0210N/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation Ration.

Your 1615/6. Request information whether anticipated operation RATION will be repeated at such frequent intervals as to provoke French retaliation and thereby (a) Make routing of future Eastern Med. convoys close to French North African coast undesirable. (b) Make if necessary to strengthen the close escort for forces on such occasions.
(S.O.Force H, 1303/7 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Attack on U/Boat.

Daily summary Operations. Aircraft on A.S. sweep sighted and bombed periscope in position 180 degrees Carnero Point 4 miles nil results. Destroyers dropped depth charges on doubtful contact. Nil results.
(200 Group 1710/7 to Air Min).

South Atlantic.

Transport of French Foreign Legion.

1,200 French Eoreign Legion with M.T. stores equipment etc., are to be moved as soon as convenient from Duala to Port Sudan. For the M.T. and stores N.C.S.O. Duala is holding French ship CASAMANCE. As INDO CHINOIS not available for conveyance of troops it is proposed to use CAPO OLMO. Arrangements. If suitable Admiralty has no objection to her inclusion in W.S.5A.
(D. of S.T. 0107/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

ENGLISH TRADER.

Ship is being sent to your assistance expected make contact A.M./11. Report to Freetown in Merchant Navy Code position at 0001 zone plus one 11/12 message being transmitted at that time
(C.in C. S.A. 1004/7 to ENGLISH TRADER).

NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE has had trouble with boiler tubes necessary have three days for boiler cleaning. Expect to sail 9/12 or 10/12.
(C.in C. S.A. 1015N/7 to Adty).

PAN EUROPE.

Overdue ship. (PAN EUROPE) due Port Elizabeth 8/12 from Singapore not Shameen.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1035B/7).

KENT.

My 1905/5. KENT is not degaussed.
(C.in C. S.A. 1101/7 to Adty).

Duala - Cotonou Cable.

Re. (G.O.C. West Adrica, 0930/7 to W.O)
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action on 5/12.

Action of CARNARVON CASTLE on 5/12 again emphasises importance of policy outlined in my letter 1453/125 of 30/10 and my 2005/22/11 especially as regards longer range guns.
(? ALCANTARA) now refitting hes guns with 14 thousand yards range and requires improved fire control, my 1931/27/11 refers.
(C.in C. S.A. 1207/7 to Adty).

Here public knowledge CARNARVON CASTLE approaching Monte Video arrives 2000 G.M.T. Unaware whether there are prisoners onboard. If so shall we voluntarily release them and announce fact forthwith to Uruguayan Gov., thus anticipating any probable application by German Minister for their release. You will recall that GRAF SPEE intended from first release prisoners here and that this was in fact done without demur on an application from me to Foreign Minister (Millington Drake, Monte Video, 1200/7 to Adty) (Reply 0309/9).

Arrived Montevideo 1900/7. Expect to sail 1900/10. C.in C. S.A. pass to R.A.S.A.D.
(CARNARVON CASTLE 1912Z/7).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Your 1415/28. PRETORIA CASTLE will be ready to sail p.m./14 after completion of repairs and Gunnery practice. Request instructions.
(N.O.I.C.Simonstown, 1215B/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

Seaward Defence Force, (A/S Vessels for Med.)

My 1831/3. Present position regarding seaward defence force A/S vessels is as follows. (1) Flotilla will be ready to sail from Durban on o/12. (2) Re-manning. (3) Request very early information whether these and other conditions outlined in my 1705/2 are acceptable.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 1233B/7).

French Seaman in CUBA.

Your 1947/2. Approved to give pocket money on following scales per month as from date of arrival:-
£5 to Officers, £3 to Ensigns, £3 to Petty Officers, £1 to other ranks.
A small issue of service tobacco may be made. (Hd. of M. 1452/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 1705/2. If personnel are transferred to R.N. there would be strong objections to paying them directly at S.A. rates. (arrangements) (Md. of M. 1530/7 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

ARAWA.
MORETON BAY
Catapults.

Your 1205/6. Dates of completion communicated in my 2224/5 took into account the fact that catapults would not be fitted.
(D.O.D.(F) 1622/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

Cables.

Cable communication between Freetown and Duala is slow owing to necessity for routeing via Nigeria land lines in order to avoid Vichy territories.

2. General De Gaulle requests break in cables between Libreville and Port Gentil and between Port Gentil and Point Noire may be repaired at an early date. Proposals.
(C.in C. S.A. 2113N/7 to Adty).

Supplies for Army and R.A.F. in Greece.

Requirements. Present arrangements unsatisfactory.
(C.in C. M.E. 0845/7 to W.O.)

Mediterranean.

Transport of A/C's.

My 1615/6, cancels first 2 sentences of my 1435/23/11. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1128/7).

Air Report.

Operational Summary 180 to 1200/7. Greece. A/C reported large number enemy warship North of Corfu at 1600 hours. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1206/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Spezia Docks.	Your 1835/3 and my 1439/6. Request aerial photographs may be forwarded. (D.N.I., 1602/7 to V.A.Malta).
REGENT) PANDORA.)	Operation B.S. Patrol orders. (Capt: S.1. 1701/7).
Suez Canal.	Your 1847/29. Desirable employees in Egypt should know the time position. H.M.A. Cairo taking up question. (Hd. of M, to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0017/7).
Cables.	Concur in S.O.Force H. 1629/1 operation by MIRROR. (C.in C. Med. 1148/7).
Convoy A.N.8.	Arrived Piraeus 1400/7. (N.C.S.O. Athens 1530/7).
Cost Defences.	C.in C. M.E. O 27285 of 24/11 W.O. recommended:- Six-inch naval guns recently diverted to Haifa should be released to Turkey as originally intended. Diversion of two six-inch guns intended for Alexandria Barron (?scheme) to Mersa Matruh. Replacement of above should further six-inch guns become available. (? Concur). In present circumstances threat to ship borne attack on Haifa much reduced and Alexandria has adequate coast defence. Same deterent coast defences are desirable at Mersa Matruh. (C.in C. Med. 1335/7 to Adty).
Intelligence - Rhodes.	From Greek consul at Rhodes released end of November. Consider food shortage is not sufficient to force capitulation for long time. Intermittent air communication by night with Italy. Military morale poor. Natives eagerly awaiting landings. During raid Kalato 3/9 they cut all wires from aerodrome spontaneously. Satisfactory damage to aerodromes. Church at Leros which (? was) hit contained ammunition.

MOST SECRET.

7.12.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Intelligence - Rhodes. (Contd.)

Three rows of wire all vulnerable beaches. Last line well inland. Probably under water obstructions also. No A.T. obstacles on roads only wire barriers night. Tanks concentrated Soroni. Boom across harbour Rhodes; usually closed. (Wolffson, Beyoglu. 1430/7).

Naples Reconnaissance, Attack on Tripoli.

Combined services report up to 1700/7 All times G.M.T. 10.05 - 14.38 Glenn Martin Photo Recco. Naples, outer harbour 2 Battleships, 4 Cruisers, inner harbour several Destroyers in dry dock, 1 cruiser. 14.12 - (1538 11 Wellingtons attacking Tripoli due to return from 1745 onwards. No enemy air activity over Malta today no Naval or Military Items.
(H.Q. Malta. 1700/7).

Greek A/S Training.

Re Adty. 1806/17/11 and tel. No. 1832 /23/10.
(N.A.Athens 1930/7 to C.in C. Med.)

Greece.

2 Italian destroyers entered Jaranda today (? about) 1100 and 2 more cover them outside port.
(Heywood Mission. No T.O.O./7).

U.S.7.

Departure 0529Z/7 PERTH, 0842Z/7 CAPETOWN escorting U.S.7.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0958Z/7 to Adty).
Sailing telegram. Escorts PERTH, CAPETOWN to 12° N., 45° E., thence Red Sea Force, S.O. CARLISLE.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1026Z/7).

B.S.10.

KANDAHAR left 0904/7 for B.S.10.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0911Z/7).

KISMAYU.

My 1120/17. Air photographs 6/12 show 16 ships, including ASKARI and KIONGA. Observer describes additional ships as tankers, but photos. not yet examined in detail. (C.in C. E.I. 1054Z/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Routes to M/V's.

For N.C.S.O. Routes given to merchant ships between any two ports (other than coast wise and voyages) are to be so ordered that full dispersion is achieved as soon after sailing as practicable, and is maintained until as close as practicable to port of destination.
(C.in C. E.I. 1102/7).

U.S. Convoys.

Military authorities are pressing for a decision as to whether all U.S. convoys will in future tranship at Bombay or Ceylon. Can definite decision be given in view of my 0555/15/11.
(S.S.T.O.India (Bombay) 1108Z/7 to D. of S.T.)

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 178 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 8/12.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1907 to Air Min.)

China.

OLE JACOB. Raider.

Norwegian tanker. (in enemy hands). Sailed p.m./5 to westward.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 0431/7).
Consul-Gen., Kobe, reports Norwegian crew landed at Kobe while she was there. Description of raider which captured TEDDY and OLE JACOB and sunk AUTOMEDON in Indian Ocean.
(C.in C. China, 1621Z/7).

America and West Indies.

"Town" Class destroyers.

My 1138/6. Expect ROCKINGHAM (S.O.) and ROXBOROUGH to sail from St.Jhhn's N.F. on 10/12. Similarly routed.
(R.A. 3 B.S. 1109/7). Left Halifax for St.John's N.F.?).
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1900/7).

READING, RAMSEY, RIPLEY arrived here at 1700 G.M.T. today.
(N.O.I.C. St.Johns 1616/7).

COLOMBIA. Dutch to sail for U.K. in convoy and not independently.
(D.T.D. 1125/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

HERTFORD
Mined.

British ship HERTFORD struck a mine in position 035° 30' S., 135° 25'E at 1052z/7. Ship still afloat and no information yet available of casualties.
(A.C.N.B. 1300Z/7 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TEMPLAR.	Expected to leave Hamberg 30/11. (See Enemy Intelligence).
TULANE.	Reported fitting out as A.M.C. (See Enemy Intelligence).
MADRID.	Has taken in further supplies of coal and fresh provisions. (Consul, Las Palmes, 1730/7).
AUGSBURG.	Reported 6/12 to have disappeared from Daizen. (D.S.460).
REGENSBURG.	Taken oil from another German ship and entered harbour at Yokohama on 6/12. (D.S.460).
HAVELLAND.	At Yokohama, engines dismantled. (D.S.460).
BURGENLAND.	Re report (D.S.456) that BURGENLAND was being fitted with torpedo tubes.
SAWERLAND. SAARLAND.	Now reported that ship referred to is SAWERLAND. This ship arrived Hamburg on 10/8/39 from Far East, not reported since. The SAARLAND, 6725 tons, is, however, in Japanese waters and was reported sold to Japanese in October, 1940.(D.S.460).
SPEZIA ATLAS	Imminent departure. (Barcelona 1834/7).
?IDARWALD.	Intercepted message in Hapag Code DHNF ? IDARWALD to Hapag Agent Tampico. Begins Destroyers say neutrality patrol following me to limit of 300 including Gulf. Advise Berlin Everything will be done. (20(1) Kingston, Jamaica 1150/7).
HERMONTHIS.	My 1313/3/12 Believe HERMONTHIS intended to sail after completion of stores at 0300 G.M.T./2/12 and that proposed daylight sailing following day was bluff. (S.O.(1) Callas 1447/7).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO.	Left Valencia 6/12 for Genoa (Valencia 2330/7) Arrived from Valencia 7/12 (Barcelona 1834/7).
MAUROI GROCE	Arrived Barcelona from Genoa. (Barcelona 1834/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

FARM SUM.

Dutch. 5237 tons. SSSS 52.11. N., 22.56 W., FARM SUM torpedoed.
(Base ship, Scapa 2144/7). Proceed to assist FARM SUM torpedoed in 52.11 N., 22.56 W., at 2147.
(C.in C. W.A. 2226/7 to HAVELOCK).

RAJAHSTAN.
(torpedoed 2/12).

Arrived Rothesay 7/12 damaged forward.
(D.O.R. 8/12).

BOTAVON
(reported torpedoed 2/12)

Arrived Newport 7/12 undamaged.
(D.S.460).

LOCH RANZA
(torpedoed 2/12).

Cancel my 2204/6. No trace in War Reg. Return to assistance of LOCH RANZA.
(C.in C. W.A. 0012/7 to HELIOTROPE).

Your 0955/7 proceed Loch Indial to assist THAMES (Dutch tug) with LOCH RANZA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1246/7 to SEAMAN).

Report situation and whether Escort and tug SEAMAN have arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1750/7 to THAMES)

FORFAR
CONCH.
(torpedoed 2/12).

ST. LAURENT reports she has on board 3 officers and 17 ratings from H.M.S. FORFAR and 53 survivors from S.S. CONCH No casualties or cot cases. 0127/7.

Ships Attacked.
H.X.90.
(on 2/12).

H.X.90 preliminary investigation. 2000/1 APPALACHEE torpedoed, survivors picked up by LOCH RANZA. No escorts in company at this time. 0100/2 several ships hit about this time including MODAVIA in position 55° N., 18° 30'W. 0130/2 VILLE D'ARLON observed showing not under control lights. She dropped astern and was probably torpedoed about 0145. 0230/2 warship thought to be ST. LAURENT passed through convoy on course 120. 0300/2 Star Shell seen by EMPIRE PUMA and other ships fired from three directions astern for 20 minutes. No Liverpool escorts fired this but ST. LAURENT may have done. FORFAR torpedoed about this time in position 54° 35'N., 18° 18'W. Survivors state she fired Star Shell after being torpedoed. 1200/2 FOLKSTONE joined convoy in approx. position 55° 31'N., 16° 58' W.

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(Base ship, Scapa 2144/7). Proceed to assist FARM SUM torpedoed in 52.11 N., 22.56 W., at 2147.
(C.in C. W.A. 2226/7 to HAVELOCK).

RAJAHSTAN. (torpedoed 2/12). Arrived Rothesay 7/12 damaged forward. (D.O.R. 8/12).

BOTAVON (reported torpedoed 2/12) Arrived Newport 7/12 undamaged. (D.S.460).

LOCH RANZA (torpedoed 2/12). Cancel my 2204/6. No trace in War Reg. Return to assistance of LOCH RANZA. (C.in C. W.A. 0012/7 to HELIOTROPE).

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(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1246/7 to SEAMAN).

Report situation and whether Escort and tug SEAMAN have arrived.
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U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Ships Attacked. H.X.90. (on 2/12). (Contd.)

She was first escort to arrive, 1430/2 LOCH RANZA torpedoed but was probably astern of convoy. 1620/2 FOLKESTONE attacked contact and sighted periscope. Two and a half minutes later STIRLINGSHIRE torpedoed. 1630/2 MODAVIA Captain sighted damaged U/Boat lying on its side which came awash three times and sank. This report is being further investigated but conclusion is that U/Boat fired torpedoes at STIRLINGSHIRE immediately before FOLKSTONE killed him. 2000/2 FOLKSTONE rejoined convoy. 2016/2 WILHELMINA torpedoed. FOLKSTONE lost convoy while searching U/Boat and did not rejoin until 0945/3. VISCOUNT jointed H.X. 90 before dawn on 3rd and was only escort. 0945/3 rejoined. Convoy attacked by Condor. VISCOUNT and convoy opened fire and aircraft then attacked WILLIAM HENDRICK 5 miles astern, which sank. 1600/3 FOLKSTONE and VISCOUNT counter attacked. MAGICIAN states he saw torpedoes approaching HARPEFJELL, but no hits.
(Capt: D. Liverpool 1521/7 to Adty).

Submarines Reported. 0830.

Sighted on surface 56.57 N., 21.42 W. (Lands End Radio, 0830/7).
U/Boat was in position 56.57 N., 21.40W., at 0730 G.M.T. today. Keep clear. (D.T.D. 1642/7 to G.B.M.S.Area 1 for PETER MAERSK) Italian seen on surface by LLANGIBBY CASTLE (D.5.460).

2040.

One submerged submarine bearing 170, 5 miles, course unknown, my position, 021, 39° N., 22° W., 47 (CIRCASSIA 2040/7).
U/Boat reported at 2040/7 in 39. 42N., 21.40 W., steering 170° 5 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 2136/7) Probably Italian. (D.5. 460).

1310.

D.F. probable U/Boat 52.30N., to 53 N., 18.30 W., to 20° W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1345/7).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian. 1 off Cape Spartel on 3rd is probably proceeding to Azores.
1 approaching Gironde from West of Portugal.
Possibly another off Portugal or Spain.
1 probably Italian was in 60° 30'N., 8° 54' W. at 1215/6.
1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.

German. 1 probably approaching Lorient from Finisterre.
1 was in about 55° 20'N., 10° 40'W at 1853/6.
1 was about 52° N., 15° W., to 17° W at 0212/7.
1 may be about 60° N., 20° W.
1 may be still patrolling North of 61° N., and East of 20° W.
1 or possibly 2 more in N.W.Approaches, whereabouts unknown.
No news of the one which was S.W. of Cape de Verde Islands on 30th.
(D.D.I.C. 1239/7 V.A.S. 1511/7).

X.7566. Z.60 6/12.
Personnel for C.A.S. from SLESSOR.
Have best possible reasons for thinking that persons most directly concerned would be more than willing to contribute to the shipping situation on the following lines. Make available all remaining 103 old destroyers as and when we can make them. Ditto 45 reserve merchant ships amounting to 3 to 4 hundred thousand tons. Ditto about 125 French and Danish ships now in American ports amounting to about 4 hundres thousand tons. Authorities sale or transfer of ships from the U.States coastal and inter coastal trade. Initiate big (LINDI)? island scheme for building.
Donovan will explain.
2016 Received from Air Ministry 1015/7.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Norwegian Ore Trade

It is reported that small shipments of iron ore from Narvik to Germany will begin at the end of this month in German ships hugging the coast of Norway to the Kattegat and thence through the Kiel Canal. 200,000 tons a month is aimed at from February onwards.

SUNFISH Report

SUNFISH reports that she sank a 4000 ton merchant vessel off Stadlandet 5/12 and probably obtained one hit with torpedo on a 4000 ton tanker off Stadlandet on 7/12.

Heavy weather in N.W.Approaches

Shipping is experiencing heavy weather in the N.W. Approaches. HESPERUS, who has a leak in her forward magazine, met BULOLO, ocean escort of Convoy S.L. 56, none of which were in sight, having been lost to sight the previous evening; GARLAND and HARVESTER failed to meet the convoy and turned back to Loch Foyle. Convoy H.X. 91 is scattered; WALKER and VANSITTART (escorts) have both sustained damage,,and WALKER reports that nothing has been seen or heard of CANDYTUFT since the gale of 5/12.

British Air Activity

Coastal Command

Two special equipment aircraft patrolled the track of Convoy O.B. 254 in the N.W. Approaches last night.

Blenheims attacked the docks, shipyards and power station at Lorient this evening

Beauforts attacked Brest.

23 Convoys were escorted today.

Bomber Command

Boulogne and Calais were attacked last night, and aerodromes at Flushing and Ostend.

Owing to bad weather no day operations were carried out.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

YEWARCH in Convoy F.S. 55 was bombed and hit while at anchor off the Humber, and TREVERBYN was attacked in the N.W.Approaches today.

M/S Trawler CARISBROOKE is reported by F.O.I.C. Yarmouth to have been damaged by air attack (? in attack on Yarmouth 7/12)

The R.L.A. building was seriously damaged during a heavy attack on London tonight.

Mining

No minelaying by enemy aircraft was suspected last night.

Examination vessel MINNA was damaged by a mine in the Firth of Forth today.

WINDSOR was mined off Aldeburgh this evening and was towed to Harwich.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE Raider — It is thought that the raider engaged by CARNARVON CASTLE on 5/12 may be the LEVANTE, of Atlas-Levante Line, or a similar ship.

SS HIDLEFJORD — (Norwegian 7659 tons) Table Bay to Freetown reported at 1511N/8 that she was being fired on by a "mysterious" ship 8 miles off, about 185 miles south of Freetown, which later disappeared.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

British Advance Begins

The Army commenced offensive operations against the Italians in the Western Desert today.

Naval Cooperation

TERROR, APHIS and LADYBIRD, supported by JERVIS, JANUS and NUBIAN cooperated off the coast west of Mersa Matruh.

America & West Indies

IDARWALD Intercepted

DIOMEDE today intercepted the German SS IDARWALD to the east of Yucatan Strait The ship was abandoned and on fire, and DIOMEDE was unable to prevent her from sinking.

Australia

Raider

An enemy raider today attacked shipping lying off Nauru (Pleasant Is., Pacific) SS TRADIC was seen on fire and possibly 4 other ships were attacked. Two vessels with Japanese markings were seen standing by TRIADIC, but no Japanese ship was expected at Nauru. A large vessel, presumed to be the raider, made off at 0510Z/9 in a south easterly direction.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Portland.
4th M.A.S.B.
Flotilla.

With withdrawal next week of motor boat training flotilla to Northern waters no means will exist of meeting important local requirements such as interception of suspicious craft and all form of rescue work, for which this force has been utilised and for which with its essential speed it has proved of extreme value. I press for stationing forthwith a similar force at Portland observing that this is an eminently suitable base for operational work, and that maintenance for a force of equivalent numbers can be provided. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1227/8 to Adty).

F.O.I.C. Portland's 1227/8 and my 1243/7 to R.A.C.F. Now that Portland's cupboard is to be so bare much force is added to my proposal to base 4th M.A./.B. Flotilla there. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2237/8 to Adty).

Request you retain one third of 4th M.A.S.B. Flotilla for work at Portland and send remainder to Fowey to operate as C. in C. W.A. desires. Oerlikon Guns should not be removed. (A.C.N.S. H. 1753/8 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

HUNTER.
Repatriation of Survivors.

Following from N.A.
1. My 1544/23/10 . So far only six visas for transit through Russia have been obtained and chances of more seem rather remote.

2. Opportunity may occur to send some of 37 remaining men by sea passage to U.K. as crews of vessels referred to in Stockholm 1199/15/11.

3. Request your approval to make these arrangements and permission for naval ratings to receive same Bonus as Merchant Seamen, to be paid by steel control. (N.A. Stockholm 1550/7 to Adty).

PIORUN.

The Polish manned destroyer PIORUN has been allocated to your command and you are requested to report whether you consider she would be better employed with the Polish Division in the N.W. Approaches or with the Vth D.F. at Plymouth. (1st S.L. 2203/8 to C. in C. W.A.

/N. class.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Policy (continued).

N. Class. Destroyers for Mediterranean.

It has been decided that Captain D. VII and the N. Class Destroyers NAPIER, NIZAM, NESTOR, NORMAN and NORSEMAN, shall when ready for service, join the command of C. in C. Mediterranean.

Defence of U.K.

Dover Command. Invasion Signals.

Following pyrotechnic Signals now in force by sea and land in Dover Command (V.A. Dover 1115/8).

DELUGE

At 1130/8 (D.C. 1206/8) (D.C. 2003/8)
At 2330/8 (D.C. 2345/8).

Scapa.

Progress Report 8/12 (R.A. Scapa 2015/8).

Movements.

SANDWICH.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/8).

ICARUS

Arrived 0900 (F.O. Humber 0926/8).

FORMIDABLE.
BURNHAM
PIORUN
VIMY.

Your 1552/7. Have Escorts been detailed. Request air protection also. (F.O.I.C. Belfash 0955/8 to C. in C. W.A.)
As no Destroyers available from my command, should be grateful if H.F. Destroyers could escort FORMIDABLE Belfast to Greenock. Departure being delayed for this till 10/12. (C. in C. W.A. 1322/8 to C. in C. H.F.)
Cancel my 1322. BURNHAM to escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 0800/9 for Greenock. BURNHAM to Londonderry on completion. (C. in C. W.A. 1720/8 to C. in C. H.F.) My 2209/7. Proceed Belfast and (? Provide) addition escort for FORMIDABLE proceeding Clyde tomorrow. (R.A.D. H.F. 2115/8 to PIORUN, VIMY).

KING GEORGE V.
NORFOLK.
MATABELE, BEAGLE.
BULLDOG, PYTCHLEY.

Sailed Scapa 0951 for trails of KING GEORGE V. (A.C.O.S. 1003/8)
Arrived Scapa 1840 (A.C.O.S. 1910/8).

Brightlingsea.

Disposition of Patrols 8/12 (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1010/8 to C. in C. Nore).

/FURIOUS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (continued).

FURIOUS ARGUS RAMILLIES DIDO COSSACK CAIRO SIKH FRANCONIA CALIFORNIA ST. LAURENT SKEENA BRADFORD	Capt. D.4 in COSSACK with SIKH left Scapa 0900 to R/V with RAMILLIES, FURIOUS, CALIFORNIA, FRANCONIA (A.C.O.S. 1145/8. CAIRO to leave Clyde 2300 today with CILICIA, ST LAURENT and SKEENA to R/V with DUNOTTAR CASTLE as in my 1710/7. CAIRO and Destroyer Escort to meet RAMILLIES and ARGUS at 1000/11 B.S.T. (C. in C. W.A. 1150/8). FURIOUS and DIDO will R/V with RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FRANCONIA, and 4 destroyers at 1030 Z + 1/9 in 57°50'N 17° 30'W. Whole Force expects arrive position A. 49° N 18° W. at 0900 Z -1/11. Arrange R/V for CALIFORNIA accordingly (D.O.D.F. 1303/8 to FOCNP). Leave Patrol to R/V in 39° 17'n 17° 30W at 1630 Z - 1/9 with RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FURIOUS, DIDO for inward Escort to Clyde (F.O.C.N.P. 1520/8 to CALIFORNIA). Routes. Ships for Clyde E.T.A. Clyde 1130/14 (C. in C. W.A. 1800/8). Your 1303/8. Route in my 1800/8 omit position A. (C. in C. W.A. 1822/8 to Adty).
Nore Command.	Movements to 1200/9 (C in C. Nore 1200/8).
WESTCOTT.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1235/8).
ROYAL SOVEREIGN.	Sailed from Troon 1315 for Penarth. E.T.A. Barry Roads 1030/9 (N.C.S.O. Ayr 1345/8).
Dover.	Dispositions for Night 8/9 (V.A. Dover 1402/8).
Orkneys.	Trawler Lines tonight, 5 Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1523/8).
Western Channel.	Night Report (C in C. W.A. 1552/8, 1711/8 and 1752/8).
Rosyth.	Movements tonight (C in C. Rosyth 1600/8).
MANCHESTER.	Is to proceed to Scapa C. in C. W.A. requested to route. (D.O.D.H. 1653/8).
WELLARD.	Arrived (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1719/8)

/14th A/S S/F.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued.

14th A/S S/F. — Sailed N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1816/8 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

GURKHA
LEGION
LIVELY
LANCE. — On completion should be sailed to Scapa to work up and will subsequently join C. in C. W.A. for Escort Duties in N.W. Approaches. (1st S.L. 2254/8)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. — Your 1159/7 11th December. (C in C Portsmouth 1737/8 to Adty) Ship to be transferred to Rosyth for completion. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to sail from Portsmouth P.M. /11 routed northabout. A/S Escort by all available Destroyers of 5th D.F. and A/A protection by 4 HUNT-class Destroyers, and one A/A Cruiser from Cape Wrath to Rosyth. (1st S.L. 2116/8) Request maximum possible Air Escort (D.C.D. H. 2117/8 to Air Ministry).

Operations.

Operation P.V.1. — To destroy E.- Boats mineleying in Swept Channel. Particulars (C in C. Nore 1050/8) Proposed limits of Patrol C during times of Operation. (D. 16 1716/8 to C. in C. Nore) See Operations Volume.

KASHMIR.
KIPLING.
PUNJABI.
JUPITER. — To proceed at 1630 today to patrol between longitude of Eddystone and Wolf Rock keeping about 15 miles from coast, to destroy any Enemy Force that may threaten Convoy leaving Dartmouth westwards at 1700. Return Plymouth, passing 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0945/9 (C in C. W.A. 1255/8 to KASHMIR).

Operation
MONSOON. — Your 2140/7. If A/C can be loaded by 18th is there any reason why FURIOUS should not sail with convoy W.S. 5A on that day (1st S.L. 1352/8 to FURIOUS) If Escort adequate to permit cleaning 3 Boilers in time on passage, can be ready to sail (date) (FURIOUS 1544/8).

Iceland. — MORDKAPP arrived Reykjavik (F.O. Iceland 1640/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

STURGEON. Leave Patrol at 1800/9 Route. (Capt. S.6.0921/8).

O.21. Leave Patrol 1800/10. Route (s.q. 1213/8).

L.26. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.O.S. 1421/8).

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1433/8).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/9 (V.A.S. 1612/8 and 2158/8).

TAKU Your 0938/7. Connot make R/V till 0500/10 (TAKU 2045/8).

SUNFISH. Report. Occasional daylight patrols off Stadtlandet by 2 armed trawlers and occasional off shore night patrols. No air patrols. Traffic rounding Stadtlandet by day keep ½ mile off shore.

Sunk by torpedo, 1 merchant vessel 4000 tons off Stadtlandet 5/12. Attacked 1 merchant vessel off Bud 6/12 no hits. Attacked tanker 4000 tons off Stadtlandet 7/12 1 hit probable. (SUNFISH 2315/8 to S.6.).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 2244/30/11. STAB will be flown today (C in C. Rosyth 0730/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

YEWARCH. (British 827 Tons) Bombed off S9. Buoy. Requires immediate help. VALOROUS standing by (VERSATILE 0935/8 to N.O.I.C. Humber) Attacked by Heinkel at 1700/7 Cre emphatic no distinguishing marks (S.O.I. Humber 2100/10).

Convoy ARENA One A/C shadowing in 51° 58'N 1° 40'E (WALLACE 1019/8).

TREVERBYN. (British, 5281 Tons) Attacked in 55 23'N. 14 24'W (Lyness W/T 1021/8). Still attacked (Valentia Radio 1046/8).

Yarmouth. R.N. Barracks. Damage about 1200/7. Details (Works, Shotley Gate 1119/8).

/Stornoway.....

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (continued).

Stornoway. — Heinkel 111. Course 155° (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1216/8 to A.C.O.S.).

Dover. — A/C dropped 5 Bombs off Admiralty Pier and some Incendiary Bombs on Shakespeare's Cliff at 1745 today. No casualties or damage. (V.A. Dover 1858/8).

CARISBROOK. — (M/S Trawler) Has been damaged by A/C (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1850/8).

W. HENDRIK. — (British, 4360 Tons) Attacked and set on fire by A/C on 3/12, now reported to have sunk. (D.S. 460).

Mining.

Harwich. — Patrol H.O. reports heavy Explosion E. by N. of Patrol (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0024/9).

S.N. 10A. — Completed (R.A.M.L. 1120/8).

Falmouth — Open for steam-propelled Ships only. Precautions. (C. in C.W.A. 1242/8).

Thames Estuary. — Explosions and Fireworks Night 7/8. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1545/8).

Plymouth. — Since my 1825/6, S.A. Gear detonated Mine 338° Breckwater Fort 3.1. cables. 250 yards ahead of Sweeper. (C in C. W.A. 1705/8).

Buoying. of Mines. — (C. in C. H.F.1802/8).

? ARCHEOLOGY or ACTUALITY sunk. — Skipper H.M.T. CRAIGMILLAR reports upon arrival here vessel astern of him struck a mine position 3 miles S.W. from Mouse L.V. Vessel similar Dutch M/V COHFELD believed named ARCHEOLOGY or ACTUALITY. CRAIGMILLAR searched but found no survivors. Position buoyed. convoy escort informed by T/S. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1812/8).

No explosion heard by Commander M/S Sheerness who was near (Capt. M/S Sheerness 2305/8).

MINNA. — (Examination Vessel) Engines seriously damaged by Mine in 319° Fidra Light, Firth of Forth, 1.82 miles No casualties (C in C. Rosyth 2201/8).

/WINDSOR.

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (continued).

WINDSOR.

Mined at 2004 in 52° 12'N 1° 53'E. Taken in tow by GARTH (C in C. Nore 2317/8 to Adty) Arrived Harwich 1352/9 (P.O.I.C. Harwich 1352/9 (P.O.I.C. Harwich 1357/9).

Enemy Intelligence.

SEAL.

German Broadcast 7/12 claims SEAL commissioned for service as U.-Boat (V.A.S. 1147/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMPIRE ELK. (British, 4748 Tons) Engine disabled in 59°N 21°W. Require help. (EMPIRE ELK 0110/8 to Adty) Require assistance (EMPIRE ELK 1820/8 to Adty).

Formby Light Vessel. Now adrift from station after collision with unknown vessel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0223/8).

CURACOA Forecastle breakwater partly carried away and deck leaking. Am proceeding towards coast S. of Buchan Neso. (CURACOA 0544/8).

NAPIER STAR. (British, 10,116 Tons) In collision (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1005/8).

EMPIRE THUNDER. (British, 5965 Tons) Request you sail Tug ST. OLAVES to EMPIRE THUNDER reported in Tow of Trawler at 1200/7 in 58°4'N 10°56'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1227/8 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway). ST. OLAVES sailed. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1529/8).

LINCOLN. My 1337/8. Has defects which will probably take 48 hours to repair. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1751/8).

SCIMITAR. Damage dome. Requires docking. Request port (Capt. D. Londonderry 1900/8).

SHIRLEY H. (Barge) Have her in tow (WESTON 2051/8 to C. in C. Rosyth).

BROKE. Defect in port condenser. Request SALADIN relieve me early Monday AM. I may anchor, repair defect, and rejoin Convoy before dark (BROKE 2239/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

CALABRIA. Have searched in vicinity (CALABRIA) for 7 hours and found no trace. Am proceeding Londonderry to fuel. My p.c. and s. are 052° 43' 017° 24W 060° 12 knots Heavy westerly sea and swell. Weather, Force of Wind 8. HAVELOCK 1501/9).

MOST SECRET

8.12.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
W.N. 52	Code "Metric" escorts unappropriated. (N.O. S.O., Greenock 1043/8)
S.L. 56	Not met. Searched line of advance since 2000/7. My p.c.s. Weather. (HARVESTER, 1130/8 to C. in C., W.A.,) My 1555/7. In view of gale warning, BEVERLEY, BURNHAM to proceed Londonderry and await orders. (C. in C., W.A., 1348/8)
	S.L. 56 not met. Am in company with BULOLO who lost convoy last night. My position, fuel, weather. (HESPERUS to C. in C., W.A., 1504/8)
	If fuel permits and if in vicinity join S.L. 56 as additional escort, position (C, in C., W.A, 1648/8 to ST CROIX, NIAGARA, ST. CLAIR)
	On meeting S.L. 56 at 1000/9 I shall have 120 tons fuel remaining. Can remain with convoy only during daylight, 9/12. Submit in view of damage already sustained in gale HESPERUS should return to harbour now. (HESPERUS 2025/8 to C. in C., W.A.)
	My 1720/8 (BURNHAM to escort FORMIDABLE) and R.A.(D) H.F. 2115/8. On relief by PAORUN and VIMY as escort to FORMIDABLE, BURNHAM is to be sailed to join S.L. 56 (route) (C. in C., W.A., 2248/8 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)
C.E. 19	Intend to sail 1545/10 (C. in C., Nore, 1216/8)
O.B. 256	Sailed BROKE escorting O.B. 256. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1220/8)
H.X. 93	After turning over to RODNEY, proceed towards 54.34 N., 35.29 W., and search. (F.O.C., 3 B.S. 1306/8 to AURANIA) (See America & West Indies)
F.N. 53	Humber departure 8/12 19th M.S.Group to join F.N. 53 for Aberdeen at 1545 (F.O. Humber, 1653/8)
M.V's.	12 M.V's escorted by RUBY and BRANLEBAS (C. in C., W.A., 1255/8) Amended. Only 6 M.V's and RUBY have sailed. (C. in C., W.A., 1934/8)

/O.B. 255.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
O.B. 255	Londonderry departure 8/12. VETERAN for O.B. 255 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1717/8)
Routes	South Atlantic (C. in C., S.A., 1737/8- see South Atlantic.)
F.S. 54	Reported at Nore 29 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 1445/8)
A.S. 6	Arrived (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1058/8)
O.G.M. 47 O.B.M. 257	Sailed 1430/8, 15 ships escorted by DERBY COUNTY. Sailed 1715/9, 14 ships escorted by LEEDS UNITED. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1549/8)
F.S. 56	Sailed 1400/8. 13 ships (N.C.SO. Methil)
W.N. 51	Sailed 1855/8. 11 ships (N.C.SO. Clyde Sub Office Greenock, 2014/8)
O.B.Convoys	Admiralty routes for O.B.Convoys. Orders. (D.T.D. 2251/8 to N.C.S.O. Glasgow)
H.X. 91	Shall be in position 058° N., 011° 20' W., at 0900/8. Request aircraft to assist search. Weather. (WALKER 0200/8 to C. in C., W.A.)
	An escorting BELLEROPHON course degrees 150 1 knots. VANSITTART and HONEYSUCKLE in company. BELLEROPHON reports convoy scattered. In view of gale warning consider it desirable already damaged destroyer to move south. Have heard or seen nothing of CANDYTUFT since gale of 5/12. Weather report. (WALKER 1500/8 to C. in C., W.A.)
	HONEYSUCKLE and CANDYTUFT are to proceed to search between 57° N., 10° W., 12° W., to round up any ships of H.X. 91. (C. in C W.A., 2016/8)
O.B. 254	My 1815/6. Master of BARON CARNEGIE ex O.B.O. 254 anchored in Islay damaged reports he is sailing for the Clyde. Will be off Mull of Kintyre at 1900/8. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1515/8)

/E.N. 38....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
E.N. 38	17. Cancel my 1711/7 (PELICAN to escort SS MALGORA from Methil to Clyde) PELICAN to act as additional A.A. escort to E.N. 38 sailing from Methil at 2200/8. as far as Dunnet Head. Thence proceeding independently to Tobermory. E.T.A. Duncansby Head is 0830/10. Code word MISSION. FOWEY pass to GAVOTTE. (C. in C. Rosyth 1607/8)
E.N. 37	My 1600/8 (Movements tonight 8/9) E.N. 37 off Duncansby Head 1900 proceeding through Pentland Firth. (C. in C., Rosyth 1852/8)
O.B. 256	After making rendezvous with O.B. 256 return independently to Milford Haven. (c. in C., W.A., 2020/8 to ROSEMARY)
E.N. 38	H.M.T's PIROUETTE GAVOTTE additional escort FOWEY 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2315/8)
Slow F.S.	Difficulty has been experienced by slow F.S. Convoys in maintaining accurate time-table in heavy weather. Sometimes impossible with a following wind and sea to avoid arriving at Aldeburgh Light Float some hours before daylight.

Request escort vessels may be informed that Orfordness light. Shipwash Light Vessel and Sunk Light Vessel can usually be exhibited for a limited time in emergency if asked for 4 hours before required. (C. in C., Nore. 2148/8 to C. in C., Rosyth)

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Indo-China.

Your 0441/5. Concur. (interception of French Naval Forces in Indo-China).
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0030/8 to C.in C. China).

OREGON
WYOMING.

My 1651/6. German safe conduct for OREGON and WYOMING not yet received. Ships should not be sailed from U.K. until further orders which may be expected in about one week.
(D.O.D.(H). 1304/8).

North Atlantic.

Operation
"RATION".

Your 1303/7. Until first Convoy has been intercepted and report asked for in my 1645/6 has been received it is not possible to answer your question. You must assume that it is not possible to provide additional Cruisers forces from outside the Mediterranean. This also applies to para. three of your 1381/7.
(D.O.D.(F) 0125/8 to F.O. Force H.)

C.S.18.
MANCHESTER.

My 2150/7. Intend sailing MANCHESTER for U.K. at 1600 today.
(S.O. Force H. 1214/8 to Adty).

C.S.18 in MANCHESTER sails 1600/8. (route).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1436/8).

Departure C.S.18 in MANCHESTER at 1600/8. Routed through 041° N., 019° W E.T.A. in this position 0230 zone minus one 10/12. Request onward routeing instructions.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1632/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Azores.

All
~~Situation Report at Longitudes~~ West, RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FRANCONIA, FURIOUS, DIDO and four destroyers 38½ 17½ 358° 15. CALENDULA and ASPHODEL 43° 20° 180 10.

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Azores. (Contd.)

SL 57 37° 20° 350° 8.
SL 57 (S) 34½° 20° 355° 7.
DERBYSHIRE 41° 23° on patrol.
CIRCASSIA 40° 22° on patrol.
CALIFORNIA joining RAMILLIES.
SHEFFIELD patrolling accordance with A.T. 1758/6.
Four Whalers probably fuelling at Ponta Delgada.
Submarine reported in position 39° 22° at 2040/7.
(D.O.D.(F) 1824/8 to CACHALOT).

Anticipate SHEFFIELD can remain Azores patrol until dark 12/12 arrive Gibraltar daylight 15/12. Submarine suspected in position 037° 50'N., 022° 15' W., at 1000 /7 course unknown.
(SHEFFIELD 1955/8 to Adty).

JERSEY.

Gibraltar departure 2200/8 JERSEY for Plymouth E.T.A. 0900 zone - one 11/12. (Route).
(F.O.C.N.A. 2232/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.

Transports.
Convoy C.M.7.

For troops from S.Africa to East Africa. Details of arrangements. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown. 1051/8, 1212/8).

French Seamen.

My 1530/7, request earliest possible reply. Is difficulty anticipated in obtaining volunteers if these terms are offered?
(Hd. of M. 1127/8 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

CALVO
SOTELO.

My 1202/6. Author now informs me that passengers in Spanish Sloop CALVO COTELO were 8 anti-British Frenchmen 7 of whom were sailors from French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE, not 11 Germans.
(S.O.I. Freetown. 1134/8 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

73

8.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Raider Action, 5/12.

From analysis of reports it appears possible that raider engaged by CARNARVON CASTLE may be LEVANTE of ATLAS-LEVANTE line or similar ship. (Description) (D.D.I.C. 1146/8).

CAPO OLMO TUAREG.

Your 0107/7. Re transport or remaining 600 Free French.
(N.C.S. & Duala 1929/8).

Repairs to CARNARVON CASTLE.

Important to know state of CARNARVON CASTLE on leaving for Montevideo and urgency of docking and refit. Alternatives are Simonstown, which is not desirable owing to size of ship, Durban, or U.K., Freetown If latter alternative ship might be used for Convoy escort unless efficiency too much impaired.
(C.in C. S.A. 2031/8 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

ENTERPRISE. CUMBERLAND. NEWCASTLE.

Your 1015N/7. My 1436 Z/30. So as to permit essential visit of ENTERPRISE to Montevideo and my transfer to CUMBERLAND, request NEWCASTLE be sailed as early as possible so as to arrive in K 33 not later than 14/12 with as much fuel remaining as possible. NEWCASTLE should then patrol K.33 (c) and (d).
(R.A.S.A.D. 1310Z/8 to C.in C. S.A.)

My letter 352 of 30/11. H.M. Minister at Montevideo telegram 1904, 6/12 to C.in C. Africa. My visit in ENTERPRISE must depend on general situation. Most likely dates 12th to 14th/12.
(C.C.S.A.D. 1431Z/8 to S.O.I. Montevideo).

ARAWA MORETON BAY.

My 1622/7. Change of priority should now enable ARAWA to complete 24/12 exact date for MORETON BAY cannot be given until ship is taken in hand.
(D.O.D.(F) 1610/8).

HIDLEFJORD. Raider Report.

Following has been read: QQQQ Merchant Vessel Raider, from HIDLEFJORD. Fired on by mysterious ship 5 20 N., 12 33 W. 8 miles off. T.O.R. 1511N/8.
(Freetown 1730/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 8.12.40. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Operation "Monsoon". Adty. 1142/7. May be found possible to sail FURIOUS for operation Monsoon (date) Request you arrange for either DELHI or DRAGON to escort FURIOUS from Freetown to Takoradi and back to Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1832/8).

PAN EUROPE. My 1035/7. (overdue ship). PAN EUROPE arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1930B/8).

Shipping Routes. Amendments to his 0908/22/11/40. Route for Merchant ships sailed independently from South Atlantic ports to U.K. direct. (C.in C. S.A. 1737/8 to S.O.I's Freetown, Capetown.)

Mediterranean.

R.C. Tripoli. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 0745/8, H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1705/8).

Dodecanese - Intelligence. B.2. report up to 26/11. (a) Italian warships Dodecanese active between Leros Patmos Caidaro (b) Italian auxiliary vessels on night patrol came close to Samos (c) confirms shortage of food Dodecanese (d) German consul Samos probably passing information (e) Some indication of smuggling Turkish vessels with which I am dealing. (Wolffson 1025/8).

Naples. Air recco. 7/12. Details. (V.A.Malta 0945/8).

Italian Mines. New types of moored contact mines recovered. (V.A. Malta 1125/8).

BULLFINCH. Your 1645/24/11. Date of arrival E. Med. Possible second vessel will be required permanently in Med. (b) Re Port A/S Officer Alexandria. (Hd. of M. 1356/8 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

MALAYA. My 1349/7. If you concur para.2(b) consider MALAYA should pass through Narrows not later than (date) since M.T. ships leaving U.K. will pass Gibraltar (date). (S.O. Force H. to C.in C. Med. 1912/8).

Transport of aircraft. S.O. Force H. 1844/8 See Med. Vol.

Valona Combined. Operational Summary No.181 to 1200/8. Greece. Day 7/12. Following are results of attacks on Valona. 0915 hours. 8 Blenheims hit 1 large ship remainder of bombs bursting in Dockyard area. 1320 hours. 8 Blenheims despatched to bomb harbour but only 2 reached target owing to exceptionally bad weather conditions. Bombing results unobserved. 2 Blenheims crashed in Greek territory. 1445 hours. 6 Blenheims despatched to attack harbour. Results unobserved owing to cloud and enemy fighter interception. 3 Blenheims failed to return. Reconnaissance of Corfu-Valona area revealed a large number of transports and merchant vessels newly arrived Valona. These probably incorrectly described as warships in my A.847 7/12. Large number of ships including transports observed disembarking troops at Krionero (40° 25'N., 19° 20'E. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1214/8).

Troop Transports.

PEARLEAF. C.in C. E.I. 1754/6. (Re formation of Force T). As C.in C. E.I. wants Oiler PEARLEAF so badly I can/do without her for the present.
(C.in C. Med. 1507/9).

Enemy Convoy. My 1703/29/11. Large Convoy escorted by several destroyers left Trieste 7/12 for Albania. (B.2.)
(Capt: S.I. 1721/8 to TETRARCH, TRITON).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Submarines. Personnel.

Adty. 1228/29 and my 1372/SM 9 of 10/10, para.3 propose that after arrival at Gibraltar each of these submarines in turn shall proceed to Portsmouth as soon as practicable between and without prejudice to patrols in order to adjust complement, observing that many ratings in the 1st Flotilla have been abroad for nearly four years. If approved in principle request C.in C. Med. may be informed that this opportunity will occur and that the crews of these submarines should be adjusted accordingly before departure for Gibraltar.
(V.A.S. 1241/8 to Adty).

Operation off Mersa Matruh.

Movements summary No.174. TERROR, APHIS, LADYBIRD supported by JERVIS JANUS NUBIAN operating off coast west of Mersa Matruh.
(C.in C. Med. 2127/8).

East Indies.

Kismayu. Japanese Ship.

Information has been received that a Japanese ship with a cargo of petrol heavy and machine oils arrived at Kismayu on 19/11. Report dates on which COLOMBO was on patrol off this port.
(1st S.L. 0212/8 to C.in C. E.I.)

Adty. 0212/8. COLOMBO 8/8 to 14/8 and 20 to 24/8, 6/10 to 12/10 on 14/11, then from 17 to 20/11 and again 26 to 28/11. CERES from 29/11 to 1/12. All dates inclusive. No shipping seen on the move at any time during these periods. Patrols and reconnaissances were also made off Mogadishu in September October and November.
(C.in C. E.I. 1716/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

WESTRALIA. WESTRALIA is to leave Colombo at 0300Z/9 and proceed to position 005° N., 092° E., and then patrol between this position and 001° N., 077° E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0816Z/8).

RANCHI. My 1456/6. Leave patrol so as to arrive Colombo 0230Z/10.
(C.in C. E.I. 0820Z/8 to RANCHI).

CERES. On completion fuelling Mahe proceed patrol off Kismayu adjust speed to arrive patrol area a.m./12. N.O.I.C. Milindini inform Nairobi.
(C.in C. E.I. 1020Z/8 to CERES).

SOUTHAMPTON, Kismayu patrol. My 0634/5. Cancel reconnaissance of Mogadishu. SOUTHAMPTON adjust speed now so as to arrive off Kismayu about one hour before sunset on 10/12. Keep outside hundred miles from shore while on passage. Two ships recently arrived at Kismayu and on 6/12 were lying almost midway between Mtanga Yo Papa and Kismayu Island at Northern end of Southern anchorage. If still there, they are to be sunk if this can be done without unduly risking your ship.
(C.in C. E.I. 2114Z/8 to SOUTHAMPTON).

Aircraft engines. Requirements.
(C.in C. E.I. (0822Z/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Ships.

Reported. 1 D'ENTRECEASTEUX is en route to Indo China and will be followed by MIN and CAPPADARAN (presumably from France)
2. French ship SONTAY will be loading about middle November for France as well as Madagascar.
Independent sources confirms (two) and gives date of sailing 24/11.
(N.C.S.O. Saigon 0340Z/8).

Free French Representative.

Your 107 7/12. My opinion of S Re his contemplated visits to gain first hand information. (C.in C. China, 0511Z/8 to Brit. Embassy Shanghai).

AUTOMEDON (sunk by raider 11/11).

Following message received from seaman of OLE JACOBS which was captured by German raider in Indian ocean - from Chief Engineer, AUTOMEDON. Ship shelled (corrupt group) and sunk 11/11. Killed. (list). Rest safe and prisoners on board raider.
(Consul Gen. Kobe, 0320Z/8 to Adty).

TEDDY.

My 1621/7. Re description of raider which captured TEDDY in Indian Ocean. Norwegian tanker TEDDY was subsequently sunk.
(C.in C. China 0443Z/8 to Adty).

SHIPPING ROUTES.

C.in C. East Indies 1102/7/12. Routes for Merchant ships. I have given similar instructions.
(C.in C. China, 0425Z/8).

America and West Indies.

Loop Laying.

Your 1051/28 and 1433/4. Tugs are urgent, proceed with alteration to Whaler. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1002/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

H.X.94.

20 ships. Names.
(S.C.N.O. Halifax 1121/7).

B.H.X.95.

Departure. Ocean Escort VOLTAIRE returning to Halifax. Route.
(N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1123 /8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Canso Examination Service.	W.J.A.20. An examination service will be established in Straits of Canso on 22/12. Instructions to ships. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1129/8 to S.O.I. Capetown).
U/Boat Tactics.	Your 1919/6. Re U/Boat attacks on Atlantic convoys. Neither N.C.S.O. Bermuda or myself have had any previous information regarding current (?tactics) of U/Boats except instructions contained in Adty. 1645/22/11. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/8/to Adty).
AURANIA. "Town" class Destroyers.	After turning over H.X.93 to RODNEY proceed towards position 054° 34'N., 035° 29'W., and search for ST. CROIX, NIAGARA and CLAIR. ST. CROIX reported hove to with weather damage at 0404/8 in this position and out of touch with NIAGARA and ST. CLAIR. Break W/T silence as necessary when clear of convoy to report E.T.A. in area. (F.O.3 B.S. 1306/8 to AURANIA).
S.C.15.	34 ships. Names and cargoes. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.1535/8). Sailed 1400 G.M.T./8. Route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1828/8). Draft sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Sydney 1412/8).
DIOMEDE. CALADOC. VAN KINSBERGEN.	If IDARWALD still unlocated DIOMEDE proceed position 019° 25'N., 084° 20'W., by 0600 R/9 ready to continue search at dawn. CARADOC on completion of fuelling proceed towards 024° 00' N., 083° 00' W., making good 15 knots. Netherlands Gunnery Training ship VAN KINSBERGEN remain off Havana for the present conserving fuel as much as possible. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1701/8 to DIOMEDE etc.)
B.H.X.86.	17 ships. Names. (Bermuda 1201/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

MONOWAI
AORANGI.

MONOWAI left Suva 1800Z/8 escorting AORANGI until 0600Z/10. Then proceeds on patrol to Northwest of Fiji Islands to cover shipping.
(G.W.R. Wellington, 2218Z/8).

Raider Attack.

On shipping off Naura 8/12. (See 9/12).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

IDARWALD
Intercepted by
DIOMEDE

Have intercepted IDARWALD. Ship abandoned and on fire in position 021° 43' N., 084° 08' W., Am going alongside to assist salvage. (DIOMEDE, 1447B/8 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Orders to DIOMEDE, etc., if IDARWALD still unlocated (C. in C., A.W.I., 1701/8- See America & West Indies)

Your 2015Z/8 (No trace in War Reg.) Plane sighted and circled IDARWALD then passed close to DIOMEDE position 021° 43' N., 084° 08' W., at 2200Z. Not seen since. (DIOMEDE, 1643/8, to N.O.I.C. Kingston)

Regret exceedingly to report that ship has opened fired with Lewis Gun from Bridge ahead of the boats, the after Lewis Gun opened fire without orders at boat killing four and wounding five, one very seriously. (DIOMEDE, 2131/8, to C. in C., A.W.I.)

AUGSBURG

My 0431/7. Dairen reports German crew are ashore, ship presumed transferred to Japanese flag. (C.O.S., Singapore 0541Z/8)

NORDERNEY

Para reports NORDERNEY has moved from anchorage to dock to load bunker coal. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1339Z/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 2100/7. Inform master of LOCH RANZA that he should sail as soon as practicable as tugs will have to be withdrawn shortly for other work. Crew of LOCH RANZA not required for passage may be accommodated in tugs if desired.,(F.O.I.C Greenock, 1057/8 to THAMES)

Sailed from Islay noon today, towing LOCH RANZA 7 knots expected time of arrival Rothesay tomorrow morning. SEAMAN standing by to carry out assistance. (THAMES 2140/8 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

DJURDJURA

French 4070 tons S/M Raider Signal. Following has been read. SSSS 53.06 N., 22.00 W., unknown vessel. (Valentia Radio T.O.R. 1637/8 G.M.T.)

Following has been read: SSSS 53.06 N., 22.00 W., DJURDJURA followed by submarine (Plymouth W/T T.O.R. 1645/8)

FARMSUM
(Torpedoed 7/12)

No trace of FARMSUM and search has also been made for ship reporting being followed by submarine in a position to 052° 27' N., 022° 00' W., at 1735/8. Intend locating convoy S.L. 56. Though route given in your 1648/8 differs from that in your 1555/7. It is essential to fuel in Loch Foyle on 12th December latest. Weather. (HAVELOCK 2001/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

FARMSUM not found in contact HAVELOCK proceed to assistance of CALABRIA torpedoed in position 052° 43' N., 018° 07' W., at 2007 HESPERUS continue search for convoy S.L. 56. (C. in C., W.A., 2022/8 to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS)

CALABRIA

(Swedish 1277 tons) Following has been read SSSS 52.43 N., 18.07 W., CALABRIA torpedoed (Lyness T.O.R. 2020/8)

Request you will sail Tug PRUDENT to assistance of CALABRIA torpedoed in position 52° 43' N., 18° 07' W., at 2010 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2259/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

/EMPIRE JAGUAR.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

EMPIRE JAGUAR — British 5186 tons. The following has been rend. 51. 34 N., 17.35 W., EMPIRE JAGUAR Torpedoed (Plymouth 2339/8)

H.X. 90 (Attacked 2/12) — Your 1521/7. Incident at 0230/2. Enquiry shows that ST. LAURENT did not pass through convoy at any time and was not in sight of any ships at 0230/2. At 0530/2, 6 or 7 merchant ships steering 070° passed about 4 miles ahead of ST LAURENT who was steering 320° Further enquiry is to be made to clear up this incident. (C. in C., W.A., 1938/8 to Capt. D. Liverpool)

Tactics of U-Boats — A case has recently occurred of one of H.M.Ships sighting an object in waters where U-Boats were known to be operating and maintaining her zig-zag course and her speed until torpedoed 23 minutes later.

2. Following information on tactics now being adopted by U-Boats is promulgated for information (Abridged)

3. Reluctance to attack any ship under escort in daylight hours.

4. Where their speed permits U-Boats may be expected to shadow a likely target during daylight hours.

5. Attacks at night (Procedure)

6. U-Boats are not deterred by severe weather conditions from attacking on the surface. The latest U-Boats are probably fitted with some form of R.D.F. as an aid for locating their targets at night.

7. U-Boats will not dive at night unless forced to do so.

8. A pyrotechnic signal from a U-Boat after firing torpedoes should be taken to indicate the presence of another U-Boat.

9. Maintenance of an efficient look-out particularly abaft the beam of vital importance. A turn away at full speed from any object sighted should be effective in avoiding attack. (D.A.S. 0130/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0012 D.F., probable U-Boat 53.30 N., to 54.00 N 17° to 19° W., (D.D.I.C. 0057/8)

1137 D.F. Italian U-Boat., 50°-51° N., 15° -17° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1228/8)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- One has arrived on patrol in Azores area and may have been in 59° 40' N., 21° 35' W., at 2040/7.
1 should reach Gironde today.
1 in 51° N. to 52° N., 15° W to 17° W., at 1137/8 is probably bound for Gironde.
1 may still be in vicinity of Faroe Bank.

German- 1 about 52° 30' N., 19° W., at 1310/7.
1 about 54° N., 17° W., to 19° W., at 0012/8
1 may have been in 57° N., 21° 42' W., at 0930/7.
1 in area 60° N., to 62° N., 17° W., to 20° W.
1 in about 55° 20' N., 10° 40' W., at 1353/6 is probably patrolling within 120 miles of Bloody Foreland.
The U-Boat in Cape Verde Islands area on 30/11 is probably now northbound.
(D.D.I.C. 1411/8)

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Fishing hours in Moray Firth

On account of short days, hardship to fishermen and to increase food supplies request approval to allow fishing vessels to leave harbours in Moray Firth one hour before sunrise instead of at sunrise provided they steer directly away from the coast and are darkened until sunrise. Request early reply. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1001/9 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/9 (D.C. 1147/9) At 2330/9 (D.C. 2330/9).

Movements.

FURIOUS
DIDO

Amend A.T. 1303/8 to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1822/8 (D.O.D.F. 0013/9 to F.O.C.N.P.)

KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER.

Sailed Plymouth 1650/8 (C in C. W.A. 0028/9).

Nore

Dispositions for Night 9/10 (C. in C. Nore 0800/9).

SABRE.

Sailed E.T.A. Belfast 1600/9 (N.O.I.C.

FORMIDABLE.
PIORUN.
VIMY.

My 1712/6. Departure delayed by weather. Intend sail her 2030/9. ETA. Clyde 0900/10 (FOIC BELFAST 1030/9) Cancel my 2358/8 (C in C W.A. 1410/9 to HQFC) Sailed ETA Clyde 0800/10 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2100/9).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Adty. 2116/8. 2 Destroyers will be provided from Nore and 2 from Portsmouth (C. in C. Nore 1116/9 D.21 1402/9) Request you consider use of a distant screen of M.A./S Boats, arranging with C. in C. W.A. (ACN.S.H. 1235/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth) My 1116/9. 2 Destroyers detailed are to leave Sheerness PM/10 so as to pass North Goodwin at dusk. Route to Nab Tower at 0800/11. (C in C. Nore 1510/9 to D.21). To allow time to sweep long Approach Channel request ship may arrive off Beamer Rock at 1330/14. Request ETA May Island be signalled. (C in C. Rosyth 1550/9 to Adty). R/V for H.F. Destroyers 52° 28'N. 5° 28'W at 1600/12. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to amend R/V if necessary. (C in C. W.A. 2016/9 to C. in C. H.F.) Request you sail 4

/Destroyers....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

QUEEN ELIZABETH (continued).	Destroyers accordingly. CURACOA to provide A/A Escort from Cape Wrath to Rosyth (C. in C. H.F. 2231/9 to R.A.D.) Request full action on Adty. 2117/8. (Air Ministry 1810/9 to Fighter Command).
MANCHESTER.	Left Gibraltar 1600/8. Route to Scapa. (F.O.C.N.P. 1620/9).
ROYAL SCOTSMAN.	Your 1507/7. Proceeding P.M. today as ordered (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1220/9 to Adty).
SKUDD VI. POLAR V.	Your 1124/5 To be sailed by following route to Freetown (C. in C. W.A. 1248/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
HURRICANE.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1445/9).
PELICAN.	My 1741/7 ETA now PM/10 (C in C. Rosyth 1501/9 to WESTERN ISLES).
Northern Patrol.	Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/9).
KING GEORGE V. MATABELE. BULLDOG. ELECTRA.	Left Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1740/9).
EDINBURGH.	To avoid possible U-Boats keep West of 24°W till North of 57°N. (C in C. W.A. 1808/9 to EDINBURGH).
HARVESTER.	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1929/9).

Operations.

Operation. SPECIMEN.	F.O.I.C. Belfash to sail PEGASUS to join O.G. 47 at a R/V arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool. As no additional sloop is available, Leith is to detail a corvette to attend on PEGASUS during flying operations. (C. in C. W.A. 1133/9 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) R/V at 1325/10 in 000° Altacarry 8 miles (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).
Patrol AX.	2 A/S Trawlers to patrol AX (C. in C. W.A. 1446/9 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

/Operation MONSOON. .....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Operation MONSOON	Cancel previous instructions. FURIOUS to be sailed on (date) Re aircraft. (A.C.N.S. H. 1700/9 to C. in C., W.A.) See Operations Volume.
Landing Exercise at Lanlash	One Corvette to be sailed to Lanlash forthwith to receive orders from CO. GLENGYLE. She will be required for about one week. (1st S.L. 1745/9 to C. in C., W.A.) Arrange with Capt. D. to comply with Admty. 1745/9 (C. in C., W.A., 1933/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Submarines

TAKU	Delayed. R/V 300° Longships Light 5 miles at 0845/10 (S.2.0514/9 to CUTTY SARK) My 1612/8 Amend position of TAKU as follows (V.A.S. 1029/9)
UPHOLDER	V.A.S. 1258/5. Intend sail for Gibraltar at 1400/10. Route. (S.5. 0849/9 to Admty.)
UPHOLDER UNIQUE USK	Following Total Bombing Restrictions arranged. (S.5 1001/9 to UPHOLDER) UPHOLDER leaves Portsmouth 1400/10 and UNIQUE and USK at 1400/11 for Gibraltar. Routes (S.5 1635/9)
Bay of Biscay	To intercept Enemy vessels using Biscay Ports, the following temporary Patrol Zones are established. My 1103/28/10 to S.2. only is cancelled. Instructions. Spanish territorial waters are not to be violated. (V.A.S. 1512/9 to S. 2.)
URGE TROUBADOUR	Sailed TROUBADOUR to arrive Barrow 0830/10 as escort for URGE to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1532/9)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0800/10 (V.A.S. 1629/9)
L. 26	Will leave Scapa 1530/10 for Dundee, escorted by THIRLMERE (A.C.O.S. 1824/9)

/Bombing.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Bombing Restrictions — Institute Total S.B.R. in Holyhead 0830 to 1730 daily from 10 to 14/12 inclusive and in Portsmouth Area 1530 to 1830 10 and 11/12. (H.O.C.C. 1910/9)

British Air Activity

East Coast — 2 Blenheims from Dyce Patrol East Coast to Flamborough Head and return 0830 to 1230 today. (C. in C., Rosyth 0738/9)

Patrols — My 2244/30/11. STAND and HORNLI will be flown today. (C. in C., Rosyth 0754/9) HORNLI cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., 1258/9)

Hatston — Your 1539/5. R.A.N.A.S. proposes that 816 and 825 Squadrons move to Hatston about 15/1. Admty. Concurs with this. (5th S.L. 1931/8 to C. in C., H.F.)

Destruction of Enemy A/C off Irish Coast. — Enemy long range aircraft operates off the south west coast of Ireland. It is intended to intercept and destroy this aircraft and one section of Blenheims is to patrol between Old Head of Kinsale and Fastnet from 0930/10 to 1100 hours. Keeping within visibility distance of Irish Coast but outside territorial waters. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1947/9 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

ST. ROGHVALD — (British, 1069 tons) Attacked off Sumburgh (Wick Radio 1055/9)

Deptford — Late p.m/8 two H.E. and many incendiariary bombs dropped. Some damage and fires (Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford 1130/9)

London — Port of London Authority Building hit at 2140/8 by heavy H.E.Bomb. Serious damage and fire. No Naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. London 1200/9)

A/C over Irish Ports daily — Your 1817/7. Irish witnesses declare A/C German, but marking not seen by English witnesses (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1207/9)

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Unst — Following received from N.O.I.C. Lerwick begins:- Aircraft which attacked St. ROGNVALD later flew over Unst machine gunning Burra Firth, Haroldswick and Skaw. No damage or casualties reported so far but A.E.S. No 4. and R.A.F. station at Skaw attacked. (A.C.O.S. 1306/9)

Mining

Off Aldeburgh — Mine detonated by WINDSOR at 2004/8 in 52° 11' N., 1° 54' E. (WINDSOR 0007/9)

Sheerness — 2 mines detonated and 2 loud explosions heard. Report by Group Officer in MILFORD PRINCE (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1001/9 to C. in C., Nore)

Operation Z.M.E. 5. — To be carried out on night 10/11 or as soon after as possible for 7 miles 119° from 51° 16' N., 5° 52' W., (D.O.D.M. 1149/9 to C. in C., W.A., and ADVENTURE)

Firth of Forth — Mine exploded at 1300 in 56° 1' N., 2° 22' W No damage to ship. (WOLSEY 1305/9 to C. in C., Rosyth)

MINNA (Mined 8/12) — Details. Towed to Albert Wharf, Leith. No casualties. (C. in C., Rosyth 1530/9)

Tyne. SS HINDPOOL Mined — HINDPOOL (British, 4897 tons) mined at T.I. Buoy (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1317/9) Port closed owing to Mines. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1319/9)

Bristol Channel SS ROYAL SOVEREIGN Mined — At 1142/9 a Mine detonated by ROYAL SOVEREIGN (British 1527 tons) in 51° 23' 46" N 3° 8' 51" W., (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1805/9)

OSLOFJORD (Mined 1/12) — Now reported total loss (D.S. 462)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Stavanger

3 M/V's and 2 Destroyers off Stavanger at 1315 steering N. at 8 knots. A/C report. (V.A.S. 1508/9)

BISMARCK
EMDEN

Battleship BISMARCK was reported to be between Danzig and Swinemunde proceeding west on 24/11(B.2.)
A cruiser with two funnels is reported to have been in dock at Danzig on 26/11. (C.2.)
This cruiser may be EMDEN. (D.D.I.C. 1827/9)

Bordeaux

At 2040/8 a ship burning in River Garonne just South of Dock Entrance (B.C. Int Summary No 590)

MOST SECRET

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE — (British 15,000 tons) Damaged by collision with MANCHESTER CITY in 55° 31' N., 6° 34' W No 4 hold flooded. Returning Belfast. E.T.A. 1115/9. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 0802/9 and 0910/9) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1325/9)

BREADWINNER — (Motor Cobble P.D. 215) Sunk by collision with Motor Patrol Yacht BRACKEN in Peterhead Harbour at 1715/7. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0700/9

SHIRLEY — (Barge) Left derelict by Tug FAIRPLAY I and towed into Tyne by WESTON. Inquiry by D of S.T. proposed (C. in C., Rosyth 1339/9 to N.O.I.C. Leith)

MANCHESTER CITY — (British 5600 tons) Damaged in collision with DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. Cannot use anchor Proceeding to Clyde. (MANCHESTER CITY 0915/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

P.C. 74 — Arrived with A/S gear out of action. Sails 1800. (F.O.I.C. Milford 0925/9)

EMPIRE F&K — Request you sail Tug BRIGAND to assist in 59° N., 21° W., at 0110/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1004/9 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway) Cancel my 1004/9 Ship now able to proceed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2125/9)

WALKER
VANSITTART — E.T.A.Liverpool 0900/10. WALKER has following major defects, and VANSITTART considerable upper-deck damage (WALKER 1040/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

GARLAND — Arrived with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1253/9)

YEWARCH
(Bombed 7/12) — Arrived in tow of Tug SCOTSMAN at 1115/9 (F.O.Humber 1130/9)

Knob Light Vessel — Your 1506/7. Inquiries are being made. (C. in C., Nore, 1441/9 to Admty.)

/ST MERRIAL....

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS--Contd.

ST.MERRIEL YAV — Superficially damaged by collision at 0100/9 South of May Island. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1559/9)

NIKOKLIS — (Greek, 3576 tons) Anchored off St. Johns Point, Donegal Bay. Proceed to assist her to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. GReenock 1643/9 to ENGLISHMAN) Am proceeding (ENGLISHMAN 1820/9 to F.O.I.C. GReenock)

AGHIA EIRINI — Proceed with despatch to assist in 54° 6' N 18° 18' W., at 1212/8 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2155/9 to MARAUDER) Sailed MARAUDER from Campbeltown at 2322. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to C. in C., W.A.)

SS VILLE D'ARLON Overdue — (Belgian 7555 tons) New York to Liverpool in Convoy H.X. 90, is reported by Lloyds much overdue and is believed lost (D.S.462)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys	Estimated positions 0900/9 (D.T.D. to C. in C., H.F., 1347/9)
W.N. 50	Passed 58° N., at 0230, speed made good 8 knots. (KING SOL to A.C.O.S. 0231/9)
	1520/9 BROADWAY, GLEANE left Scapa to R/V (A.C.O.S. 1706/9)
E.N.	Following from KINGSTON ONYX 0100/9 57° 50' N 10° 46' W., course 130° Suggest R/V with E.N. convoy E. of Barra Is. 0111/9. (S.O. Northern Trawlers 0247/9 to F.O.C.N.P.)
	Your 0111/9. Concur. ENDEAVOUR to R/V with E.N. convoy in daylight (S.O.N.T. 0249/9 to KINGSTON ONYX)
F.N. 59	Departure 9/12 for Harwich BASSET with F.N. 55 (N.C.S.O. Thames 0931/9)
H.X. 95	AUSONIA ocean escort returning to Halifax (R.A. 3rd B.S. 0934/9)
H.X. 92	Meet H.X. 92, 24 ships unescorted (position) 11/12 (C. in C., W.A. 1202/9 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)
E.N. 39 } W.N. 52 }	Sail 1430/10 for Methil and act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 39 sailing 1830/10. Transfer to W.N. 52 due Cape Wrath 0030/12 and Duncansby 1030/12 (C. in C., Rosyth 1231/9 to JASON)
O.G. 47	C. in C., W.A. 1133/9 R/V for PEGASUS 000° Altacarry 8 miles at 1325/10. O.G. 47 routed (positions) (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9 to P.O.I.C. Belfast)
	Sailed PERIWINKLE for Clyde for O.G.C. 47 sailed CAMPANULA for Oban for O.G.O. 47 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1330/9 to C. in C., W.A. O.G. 47 left Liverpool 9/12 routed (positions) (V.A.N.P. 1616/9) C. in C., W.A. 1208/9 HIGHLANDER sailed F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9 FLEUR DE LYS, WILD SWAN sailed to R/V in 00° Altacarry 8 miles (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1750/9)
S.L. 5	Sailed BURNHAM to R/V (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1315/9)
F.S. 59	Act as additional escort sailing from Methil 2300/11 escorted by EGRET, VORTIGERN leave convoy (position) proceed to Harwich (C. in C., Rosyth, 1317/9 to WATCHMAN)

/H.X. 90.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd

Shipping

H.X. 90.

INGER arrived Barry Roads for Sharpness. Left Halifax in H.X. 90 lost convoy in gale 20/11. Report TAI YIN ULYSSES turned back. INGER not attacked during voyage. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1345/9)

Your 1938/8/12 Re investigation into attack on H.X. 90. Only witness who saw this was Mr. Crawford 2nd Officer of EMPIRE PUMA who made following statement. "0130 G.M.T. 2/12 a war vessel either destroyer or sloop passed close under my stern. She had two funnels and was heading over to starboard side steering 120°. She appeared to be travelling at considerable speed. About a quarter of an hour afterwards a white flare appeared from her direction. The foremost funnel was very close to bridge and after funnel quite a considerable distance further aft" Time given in my 1521/7 was B.S.T. (Capt D. Liverpool 1455/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

F.S. 56

Departures Humber 9/12 M.L's 106, 108, 110 at 1445/9 to Outer Dowsing thence with F.S. 55. (F.O.I.C. Humber 1502/9)

H.G. 49

Departures Gibraltar 1300/9 DEPTFORD, VIDETTE escorting H.G. 49 VIDETTE part company 13/12. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1714/9)

F.S. 58

R.A.D.,H.F. 1521 BROADWAY will sail as additional escort to F.S. 58, leaving Methil 1400/10, part company at 62 D buoy and escort Humber portion into Spurn and proceed Hull. On arrival Methil BROADWAY should anchor close to WOLSEY for escort instructions from her. (C. in C., Rosyth 1753/9 amended by 2121/9 to BROADWAY)

My 1751/9. For F.S. 59 read F.S. 58. (C. in C., Rosyth 2125/9 to Admty.)

S.L. 56

Sailed BURNHAM to R/V (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1315/8)

~~S.L. 56~~

Proceed join S.L. 56 hove to at 1348/9 in position 054° 48' N., 018° 38' W., proceeding when possible 064° and routed through 056° 00' N., 012° 00' W., (C. in C W.A. 1754/9 to LEAMINGTON)

/O.B.Convoys....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
O.B. Convoys	Your 1556/29/11 (Rescue ships requsitioned to sail; RATHLIN, TOWARD, COPELAND, HONTESTROOM) Request it may be confirmed these ships will have sufficient W/T operators to keep constant watch. (C. in C., W.A., 2006/9 to Admty.)
4 M/V's	Intend sail 4 M/V's escorted by LORD ESSENDEN and JASPER from Needles 1715/9 E.T.A. Dartmouth 0800/10. F.O.I.C. Portland requested arrange for Portland Light from 2330 to 2340/9 and from 0001 to 0010/9 and C. in C., W.A. for Barry Head Light from 0640 to 0650 and from 0720 to 1730/10. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1253/9 to Admty)
O.B. 256	Sailed 0052/9 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0104/9)
H.X. 94	Route RAJPUTANA returns to Halifax (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1946/9)
F.S. 53	Arrived except 7 ships (list of non-arrivals) (N.C.S.O. Thames 1806/9)
F.S. 54	Arrived. Non arrival CITY OF LONDON, reported coming in F.S. 56. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1521/9)
F.S. 55	Arrived except BLUSH ROSE and CHEVINGTON former reported arrived Hartlepool (N.C.S.O Thames 1821/9)
O.G. 47	Sailed escorted by GARDENIA and LEITH (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/9) O.G. 47 sailed 1330/9. 8 ships, Commander B.W. Fairbairn R.N.R. in EGYPTIAN PRINCE for Gibraltar. (N.C.SO. Mersey 1423/9)
E.N. 39	H.M.T's ULLSWATER, RUMBA, SAON, additional escort JASON, ALYNBANK, 31 ships (15 overseas Cose "Usage" E.N.L. portion "Monitor". E.N.O. Portion "Mixture" (N.C.S.O. Methil 1655/9)
E.N. 52 O	Intend sailing 1230/10 escort STELLA CAPELLA, 10 ships to R.V. with "Metric" 0930/11 (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1619/9)
O.B.O. 256	Sailed 0600/9, 14 ships (list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1745/9)
H.X. 92	Meet, 24 ships unescorted. Route (C. in C W.A. 1156/9 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)
E.N. 38	My 2316/8. Add to paragraph (B) extra additional escort PELICAN. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0920/9)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Ocean Escorts

Cancel my 0143/30/11 to C. in C., S.A. All A.M.C's or other of H.M.Ships acting as ocean escorts for H.X. S.C. and S.L. convoys, whether returning to overseas base or proceeding to the U.K. should normally leave their convoy 24 hours before reaching the rendezvous with local escorts. C. in C., W.A. requested to signal direct to ocean escort the route to U.K. from position of parting company with convoy. (D.T.D. 1648/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Troop Convoys

My 1238/3. Delayed one day. Revised dates (C. in C., E.I. 1150Z/9)

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration".

Your 1645/6. Intend carrying out "Ration" 12/12 on completion of training referred to in S.O.Force H. 0939/7 which had already been arranged. (F.O.C.N.A. 0946/9).

MARAKESH EDEA.

Navy Depot. state MARAKESH left Dakar for Casablanca 6/12. EDEA arrived from (? Zanzibar) with troops 6/12. (B.N.A. Washington 1755/9).

Situation of French Ships at Gibraltar.

CHARLES PLUMIER 31 officers and men refuse to navigate vessel to U.K. (my 1210/5) and ship has missed convoy. I am informed by De Gaulle officer that an attempt to sabotage or scuttle will be made if they hear vessel is eventually to be seized. Armed guard is on board. Auxiliary sailing vessel LES GEMAUX 52 on board all Vichy. Ship unfit to navigate to U.K. except under sail.
Trawler ORAGE 5 Vichy. Suggest Casablanca may be asked to send ship repatriate all above Vichy element.
Hope crew for CHARLES PLUMIER will be found from among free French element but doubtful whether crew can be found for future French ships which may be expected especially in view of impending operation "Ration" unless further survivors from torpedoed ships arrive from Lisbon.
No suitable accommodation ashore Gibraltar for officer class awaiting repatriation.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1724/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WRESTLER. Owing fuel shortage have been detached by RAMILLIES at 1830/8 (position and route) to Falmouth or Plymouth. (WRESTLER 0703A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CACHALOT Azores Patrol. Would be of great assistance to CACHALOT if she knew SHEFFIELD had orders not to close within say 25 miles of Ponta Delgada during dark hours unless chasing the enemy. (V.A.S. to F.O.C.N.A. 1028/9).

Azores Patrol. Details of sanctuary for submarine on patrol. (D.O.D.(F) 1729/9 to SHEFFIELD CACHALOT, F.O.C.N.A.)

Group 109. Proceed at 1100 G.M.T./9 (B.C. Ponta Delgada 1080/9)

S.S. HERMES. My 1552/6. HERMES sailed 8/12 due Cape St. Vincent 1800/9 thence (route) to Curacoa. Speed 7 knots. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1146/9).

Italian S/M's at Tangier. Names reported as FAADI BRUNO and BENEDETTO BRIN A. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1550/9).

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE. As far as known, there are no German prisoners on board CARNARVON CASTLE. (D.D.O.D.(F) to Millington Drake 0309/9).

CARNARVON CASTLE, QUEEN OF BERMUDA. On leaving Montevideo CARNARVON CASTLE to R/V with QUEEN OF BERMUDA at F.O. and to embark prisoners from her. CARNARVON CASTLE report E.T.A. at F.O. My 1524Z/6 QUEEN OF BERMUDA to take 800 tons of oil from oiler ARNDALE. (R.A.S.A.D. 0850Z/9 to CARNARVON CASTLE Adty).

My2031/8 and CARNARVON CASTLE's reply T.O.O. received as 1214Z/8 request your remarks. Ship is in no condition for convoy escort and repairs should be effected as soon as possible. (C.in C. S.A. 1039N/9 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (Contd.)

Broadcasting proposed by British Minister Uruguay has no support from me and am opposed to any such publicity. CARNARVON CASTLE 1241Z/9 to Adty).

Your 0850Z/9. E.T.A. at F.O. 0300Z/11 intend anchor and embark prisoners at daylight. C.in C.S.A. pass to R.A.S.A.D. and QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (CARNARVON CASTLE 2158Z/9, to R.A.S.A.D.)

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE damaged.

Sailed E.T.A. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0250/9). Damaged in collision 55.31N., 06.34W. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 0802/9).

HIDLEFJORD, raider report.

Have you any further information concerning raider report from HIDLEFJORD T.O.R. 1511N/8? (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.S.A. 1131/9).

Your 1131/9 No further information but HIDLEFJORD due Freetown 9/12 when information will be obtained and signalled. (C.in C. S.A. 1216/9 to Adty).

Submarines.

C.A.F.O. (5) 515/40. (vii) There are no allied submarines operating on S.A. Station. (C.in C. S.A. 1045N/9 to S.A.Station)

SWONA.

Your 2100/6. Delayed in transit and not received until 1025/9. SWONA having already sailed unable to communicate instructions. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1125/9 to Adty).

8th Submarine Flotilla

Admty. 1228/29/11. After arrival at Gibraltar each S/M of 8th S/M will return once to Portsmouth between patrols in order that ratings longest abroad may be relieved. Adjust complement accordingly before they are sailed for Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (H) 1130/9 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

DORSETSHIRE. My 0955/5 detailed examination in dock has revealed nothing that could have caused excessive vibration reported in DORSETSHIRE 1915/2. After minor adjustments have been completed ship will proceed to sea p.m./9 for full power trial with Dockyard officers on board. Further signal will be made after trial. (S.N.O.Simonstown. 1207B/9 to C.in C. S.A.)

COLOMBO
CARTHAGE.
C.M.7. Durban departure 9/12 COLOMBO and CARTHAGE escorting convoy C.M.7. E.T.A. Mombasa 1400/15. CARTHAGE proceeding in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 0352/29/11 para. (ii).
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1548Z/9 to Adty).

NEWCASTLE. Your 1310Z/8. NEWCASTLE will leave Freetown 0530/10 and arrive K.33 (d) 16/12.
(C.in C. S.A. 1323N/9 to Cmdre. S.A.D.)

NEWCASTLE to leave Freetown 0530/10 and proceed to Square X 33 D and between following route. NEWCASTLE is to come under the orders of R.A.S.A.D. on leaving position 3.
(C.in C. S.A. 1735/9 to NEWCASTLE).

FORT DE
TROYON. Your 0018/7. FORT DE TROYON is not at present available for commercial voyages to U.K. Six inch coast defence guns for Tata and Port Gentil and free French Merchant marine personnel all ex Freetown due to be transhipped to FORT DE TROYON at Lagos about 15/12. She will then call at Duala to collect essential cargo of foodstuffs and live cattle for same ports.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1738/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

HAWKINS
W.S.4.B.

Simonstown 9/12. HAWKINS arrived and after fuelling departed to rejoin DEVONSHIRE and convoy W.S.4.B.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1830Z/9 to Adty).

DORSETSHIRE.

Your 2240B/9 N/T in War Registry. DORSETSHIRE is to arrive Freetown 0700/18 (C.in C. S.A. 2215N/9 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, CANTON.

My 2224/5 and subsequent signals. In view of difficulty in forecasting accurately dates of completion and that DUNOTTAR CASTLE will not be delayed presumed you will wish fitting of catapult in CANTON deferred. Request immediate reply.
(D.O.D.(F) 2259 to C.in C. S.A.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA, ENTERPRISE.

Your 2316/8/12 to R.A.S.A.D.. For Minister (- regret oiling of QUEEN OF BERMUDA and repairs to ENTERPRISE both essential at Montevideo within next few days. Endeavour will be made to fuel QUEEN OF BERMUDA at sea - if successful her visit can be postponed until 18/12. Please ask permission for ENTERPRISE's visit 12 - 14/12.
(R.A.S.A.D. 0815Z/9 to N.S.O.(I) Montevideo).

ENTERPRISE re visit to Montevideo.

Following from H.M.Minister. Your 0815Z/9/12. I attach great importance from point of view of not killing goose in making the visit of ENTERPRISE 13/12 to 15/12 viz with the appearance of Cmdre. celebrating anniversary of River Plate battle by attendance at cemetary and memorial service on arrival of Lord Willingdon morning 15/12. Would it no be possible to postpone arrival till say 1300 13/12. If impossible no disadvantage in delaying application till I get your reply, rather the reverse. Really think it worthwhile.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2147Z/9 to Cmdre. S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Spezia Docks.

Adty. 1602/7. Consider Nos. 5 and 6 docks can probably take CAVOUR battleship but not LITTORIO battleship. Further lengthening of either dock impossible owing to canal. (V.A. Malta 0925/9).

UPHOLDER USK. UNIQUE.

UPHOLDER USK and UNIQUE are to be transferred to 1st S/M F. as from date of arrival at Gibraltar. (V.A.S. 1504/9).

Naval Mission. M/T Ships. MALAYA.

Asking to consulted before appointments are made. (N.A. Angora 1522/9). Your 1351/7. Proposed operations. (C.in C. Med. 1013/9 to S.O. Force H). (S.O. Force H. 1615/9 to C.in C. Med, 2011/9 to C.in C. Med) See Med. Vol.

Transport of Aircraft.

V.A. Malta 1731/9. See Med. Vol.

2 Submarines, 1 Minesweepers, 2 Torpedo Boats, 1 escort vessel at Beirut.

My 1915/5. All French warships left here this morning. One submarine returned later. (C.G. Beyrouth 1745/9 to Adty).

Bombardment of Maksila and Sidi Barrani.

Night 8/9. by TERROR, LADYBIRD, APHIS. Blenheims and F.A.A. aircraft cooperated. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/9)

Matruh bombed British air operations.

Night 7/8. Enemy A/C dropped 5 bombs on Matruh. No damage, or casualties. 8/12, Bardia, Sidi Barrani and Buenina attacked. 9/12 Sollum attacked. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1832/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Turkish Mission.

Following from Admiral Kelly. Your 0259/5 to N.A.Angora para.one. Request I may be consulted on composition of mission before appointments are made. (N.A. Angora 1522/9 to Adty).

East Indies.

Asmara bombed.

Night 7/8. 2 Wellingtons bombed Asmara. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/9).

Military Mission 106.

Re operation of dhows. (C.in C. E.I. 1218Z/9).

Shipping for troop movements.

D. of S.T. 1722/9 to P.S.T.O. Bombay. See Operations Volume.

W.S.4.A.

My 1238/3. W.S.4.A. delayed one day. New dates. (C.in C. E.I. 1150Z/9), to (S.N.O. Red Sea).

Foreign Legion.

G.O./29294. Immediate supply of shipping to transport French Foreign Legion from Duala to Port Sudan. Most Urgent. Material and personnel to be embarked as follows.
(C.in C. M.E. 1250/9 to W.O.)

Suspicious Vessel.

Norwegian ship FOSNA in position 8° 4'N., 74° 48'E at 1905 G.M.T./9 reported a suspicious vessel. FOSNA fired one shot and vessel steered away FOSNA reported all clear at 1940 G.M.T. (C.in C. E.I. 2044Z/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

IDARWALD. DIOMEDE 0917/9, 1252/9, C.in C. A.W.I. 1242/9, 2011/9, N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1555/9 See German Merchant Ships.

RHEIN. Orders to CARADOC. (C.in C. A.W.I. 2011/9) See German Merchant Ships.

HUSTLER Lost. Weather bureau Washington reports wreckage picked up at Swan Island of British sailing schooner HUSTLER lost in hurricane off Cayman Islands in October with fifteen persons on board. Hull not located.
(N.A. Washington, 1031/9).

READING RAMSEY and RIDLEY. Sailed for U.K. 1930/G.M.T./8. RIDLEY returned to St. Johns M.F. 1130 G.M.T./9 with steering defect.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1046/9).

PRINCE ROBERT. Orders. My 1832/5. Enter Callao 14/12 to embark fresh provisions. Leave there 15/12 and proceed to establish patrol off Talcahuano on 19/12. Endeavour to create impression at Callao that your sister ship is also operating West Coast. Oiler SANADOLFO relieving BISHOPDALE will transit Canal about 24/12 and will be ordered to R/V with you.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1251/9).

* Orders for PRINCE ROBERT in view of increased activity of German ships.

French ships at Dakar. Following from Navy Dept., From Dakar 6/12. French ships HOGGAR and VILLE DE TAMATAVE arrived. Latter from Madagascar CARIMARE WORT CAP BLANC left for Casablanca.
(B.N.A. Washington 1309/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Submarine Sighted off Cuba.	S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1544/9. See U/Boat Campaign.
TILAPA. BAYANO. (Fruit Ships.)	Re loading and sailing. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jamaica 1545/9).
NEWMARKET WELLS NEWARK.	While trying main engine in NEWMARKET 9/12 manoeuvring valve jammed caused ship to surge ahead into dock wall taking with her WELLS and NEWARK. Items of all three ships damaged necessitating docking. Ref. your 0628/22/11. No stiffness in working of this valve was apparent during basin trials yesterday. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1648/9).
ROCKINGHAM ROXBOROUGH.	Arrived here 1500 G.M.T. today. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1659/9).
5 French Trawlers.	St.Pierre reports five French trawlers ALFRED, URANIA, J.H. DUHAMEL, S.R. DUHAMEL, S.N. DUHAMEL, having obtained coal from Cape Breton will sail for Casablanca within the next 36 hours with cargo of fish. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1717/9).
GESAIN DESSANBUC QUERCY BEARN.	Following from Navy Dept. American Naval Observer Martinique reports. French ship GESAIN DESSANBUC arrived with food supplied 24/11 owing to detention Fort De France. French ship QUERCY is to leave for France early in December. Personnel of BEARN has been reduced probably to between 250 and 400. (N.A. Washington 1830/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

-

New Zealand.

MONOWAI, patrol.

Arrival Suva 0656Z/8 MONOWAI, departed 1800Z/8 escorting AORANGI for Honolulu for 36 hours, then patrolling North West of Fiji Islands.
(S.O.I. Wellington 0045Z/9 to Adty).

Raider off Nauru.

On 8/12 enemy raider attacked shipping lying off Nauru. TRIADIC observed on fire. Other vessels possibly attacked are TRIASTER, KOMATA, VINNI, TRIONA. 2 vessels with Japanese markings observed standing by TRIADIC. No Japanese ship expected at Nauru. Large vessel presumably raider made off at 0510Z at high speed in a south easterly direction. Description one funnel close to bridge superstructure amidships, funnel raked, 2 masts, counter stern, raked stem, hanger, 6000 tons.
(A.C.N.B. 0054/9 to Adty etc.).

Raider off Nauru.

Your ?0014Z/9.(0054 presumably)
Since approximately 1800/7, there has been no sign of VINNI TRIASTER KOMATA. TRIONA has not been sighted at all and should normally have reached here late p.m. 7th or early 8th. Have instituted continuous Watch on 500 k/cs. Look out is maintained half hour before sunrise to half hour after dark. Early a.m./9 visibility good no ships in sight. Following is description of two enemy vessels.
(R.O. Nauru 0538Z/9).

HERTFORD Mined 7/12.

My 1500Z/7 HERTFORD successfully towed to Spalding Cove Port Lincoln. 2 men slightly injured only casualties.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0630Z/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand. (Contd.)

Reinforcement of Australian Station.	Australian commitments. Proposals for reinforcement. (Naval Board, Melborne 0710Z/9). See Operations Vol.
MELBOURNE STAR.	My 0340Z/2. MELBOURNE STAR due Aden 17/12 thence Suez has following service cargo for M.E. Request P.S.T.O. Egypt notify Governor Malta in accordance with D.S.T. 1636/1/9. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne 1104Z/9).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

IDARWALD — Boarded 0650. Alongside 0725. Ship still floating but very deep. Water making in engine and boiler room but not appreciably in holds. Salvage tugs essential. Endeavouring to tow and beach in position 022° 02' N., 083° 49' W. (DIOMEDE 0917/9)

Your 0917/9. Unless you consider ship is definitely worth salvage and re-conditioning after beaching, you should sink her. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1242/9 to DIOMEDE)

IDARWALD has sunk. Am proceeding Kingston with 8 officers and 37 rating prisoners including 5 injured at 20 knots at noon (? today) (DIOMEDE 1252/9)

Cancel my 0400/9. DIOMEDE 1447/8 and 0917/9 salvage ship "WILLET" will arrive in first position 1500R/10 and proceed to second position 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1555/9)

DIOMEDE 1447/8 IDARWALD sunk. DIOMEDE proceeding Jamaica to fuel and land prisoners (C. in C., A.W.I., 2021/9 to Admty.)

RHEIN — RHEIN position 026° 00' N., 086° 52' W., course 100° speed 7 knots at 1130R/9. Proceed at 20 knots to arrive approximately 026° 00' N., 084° 30' W., on farthest (? groups omitted) on circle at 0600R/10 and carry out independent curve of search Southwards to cover approximate sector between 090° and 170° from enemy's 1130R/9 position. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2011/9 to CARADOC)

SPEZIA — Left Barcelona for Genoa 7/12. (D.S. 463)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

AEQUITAS — My 1450/20 etc., AEQUITAS under escort arrived Rio de Janeiro night 8/9. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1520/9)

FAUSTO — B.2. report FAUSTO at Montevideo has sold cargo and will unload shortly. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2228Z/7)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-Boat Tactics

Admty. 1919/6, para 4. After 1645/22/11 add "Not to all addressees". (D.A/S.W. 2026/9)

Ships Attacked

O.B. 244 (Attacked 23/11)

Commodore O.B. 244 signal 0801/23 (No trace in War Registry Message called for) BLAIRESK not torpedoed this attack and believed vessels torpedoed were OAKCREST in addition to TYMERIC and ANTEN (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1020/9)

LOCH RANZA (Torpedoed 2/12)

Arrived Rothesay LOCH RANZA ex H.X. 90 in tow of Rescue tugs THAMES and SEAMAN (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1145/9)

CALABRIA (Torpedoed 8/12)

Have searched in vicinity CALABRIA for 7 hours and found no trace. An proceeding escorted to fuel. My p, c and s 052° 43' N 017° 24' W., 060° 12 knots. Heavy Westerly sea and swell. Force of wind 8. (HAVELOCK 1501/9)

PALMELLA (Torpedoed 1/12)

Press report received that British PALMELLA was sunk off Portugal. Survivors were proceeding Lisbon in Spanish NAVEMAR.

GALLIA

Please report whether U-Boat casualty and whether torpedoed or shelled and time and position. Also any information about Swedish GWALIA reported lost off Portugal. (D.N.I., 1520/9 to N.A.Lisbon)

PALMELLA

Master of PALMELLA torpedoed on 1/12 in 40° 30' N., 13° 30' W., reports fore part of ship was afloat after after part sank and constituted danger to navigation. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1845/6)

HAVBOR

Master BENREOCH reports picking up raft and four life belts from HAVBOR on 28/11 in 005° 54' N., 012° 29' W., no survivors found.

MOST SECRET

9.12.1940
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0730 — A.F. message S/M sighted submerged, 38.03 N., 24.05 W., at 0639/9 (D.D.I.C. 1220/9, 1221/9) (ESPERENCE BAY 0730/9 F.O.C.N.A. 1140/9)

Panama reports from reliable source unknown submarine sighted off South Coast of Cuba between Manzanillo and Santa Cruz Del Sur. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1544/9)

1711 — By D/F 49° N- 50° N., 13° W- 15° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1746/9)

1315 — About 200' W., of Ushant position indefinite. Italian (D.S. 462)

Caribbean

1157 — Coast of Cuba, near Manzanillo, Unidentified submarine (D.5) (D.S. 462)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 on 38° 03' N., 24° 05' W., at 0730/9.
1 about 48° N., to 49° N., 13° W., to 14°W bound for Gironde.
1 bound to outer N.W.Approaches was in about 51° N., 16° W., to 17° W., at 1945/8
1 should now be southbound from Faroe Bank area.

German- 1 in 52° 43' N., 18° 07' W., at 2007/8.
1 in 53° N., 22° W., at 1744/8
2 in N.W.Approaches one of which may be in area 55° N., to 56° N., 10° W., to 13°W and other possibly north of 54° N., and west of 18° W.
Possibly one near 60° N., 20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1355/9)

Submarines Attacked

By SHEFFIELD — Attacked firm contact with five depth charges at 1750 N., in position 039° 38' N 028° 09' W., Result unknown. Consider certain it was S/M and a patrol now exists West of Azores. (SHEFFIELD 1847/9)

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Allocation of TOWN-CLASS Destroyers and PIORUM

Destroyers are allocated as follows:-
(A) LINCOLN LEAMINGTON to Londonderry for 1st or 2nd Escort Groups.
(B) GEORGETOWN to Clyde for 3rd or 4th Escort Groups.
(C) MANSFIELD, MONTGOMERY to Liverpool for 5th or 6th 7th or 8th Escort Groups.
(D) PIORUM to Clyde for 10th Escort Group. CHURCHILL to Clyde for 11th Escort Group.
(2) MANSFIELD is Norwegian manned. PIORUM Polish manned.

(C. in C. W.A. 1942/10).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/10 (D.C 1148/10) At 2330/10 (D.C. 2340/10).

Movements.

KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER.

Arrived Plymouth 1035/9 (C. in C. W.A. 0020/10).

GARTH, CATTISTOCK.

C. in C. Nore 1510/9. Sail at 1430 today (D. 21 0631/10).

REPULSE, SOMALI, MASHONA, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO.

Proceed executing previous order (F.O. C. 2 C.S. D645/10 to REPULSE)
Expect arrive with Destroyers 1400 today (REPULSE 0902/10 to A.C.O.S.)
Arrived Scapa 1445 (A.C.O.S. 1457/10).

FORMIDABLE
PIORUN
VIMY

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0905/10)
Intend sail FORMIDABLE escorted by VIMY, DOUGLAS, and KEPPEL at 0745/11.
E.T.A. Scapa 1315/12. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1920/10).

NIGER, SELKIRK, HUSSAR, FITZROY, HARRIER, GOSSAMER.

Sailed 0900/10 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0914/10
Arrived 1551 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1556/10).

NIGERIA.

Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 0920/10).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1550/9. Request you arrange passage of QUEEN ELIZABETH after passing North Channel to conform with C. in C. Rosyth's requirements. (A.C.N.S 1028/10 to C. in C. H.F.).
Adty. 2116/8 KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER have been ordered to arrive Nab 0830/11 and to return to Plymouth on relief by H.F. Destroyers. (C. in C. W.A. 1152/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Amendment.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

QUEEN ELIZABETH (continued).

Amendment to his 1402/9 (D.21 1254/10) (Re names of 2 destroyers detailed) Adty. 1028/10. Propose that, after passing through 58° 28'N 5° 28'W., Ship should adjust speed to pass May Island at 1100/14 (C. in C. H.F. 1301/10 to C. in C. W.A.

SOUTHDOWN with EXMOOR BRILLIANT PYTCHLEY proceed passing Swiths at 2200 today to R/V with QUEEN ELIZABETH in 52° 28'N 05°28'W at 1600/12.
2. QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by all available destroyers of 5th D.F. with 4 Hunt Class Destroyers from Nore as A/A protection leaves Portsmouth PM/11th estimated speed of advance 18 knots. Except for mark M. Pom poms she is unarmed.
3. When met take over A/S escort from 5th D.F. and continue escort to Rosyth. Hunt Class Destroyers from Nore will Remain incompany until clear of North Channel.
4. CURACOA will provide A/A protection from Cape Wrath onwards.
5. Air escort is being arranged until clear of North Channel and again on passing Cape Wrath until arrival at Rosyth.
6. QUEEN ELISABETH is due to arrive off Beaver Rock Rosyth at 1330/14 and speed after passing May Island will be in accordance with H.W.O. 38 para 18. (R.A.D. 1414/10 to SOUTHDOWN)

HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK sailed Sheerness 1440/10. E.T.A. Nab Tower 0800/11. C. in C. Nore 1542/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

C. in C. H.F. 1301/10. Concur (C. in C. Rosyth 1638/10 to C. in C. H.F.).

Adty. 2116/8, 1235/9, 1028/10 C. in C. Rosyth 1550/9 C. in C. W.A. 2016/9. Intend sail QUEEN ELIZABETH from Spithead at 1600/11 for Rosyth, escorted by KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER, FERNIE, CLEVELAND, HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK. Route Expect pass Duncansby Head 2200/13 and May Island 0900/14. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1723/10 to Adty)

Following arrangements to be made to provide Air Escort for Ships during Daylight Hours (HQFC 1910/10).

/KASHMIR.....

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

QUEEN ELIZABETH. (continued).	KASHMIR. PUNJABI, KIPLING, JUPITER sailed 1650. E.T.A. Nab 0830/11 (C in C. W.A. 2004/10).
	Adty. 2116/8 and 2117/8. Fighter Command to provide 8 Gun Fighter Escort during daylight Lands End to Rosyth in following sections, and Coastal Command by day in areas not covered by Fighter Command. Maximum scale of protection throughout passage of ship. Importance of operation is emphasized (Air Ministry 2100/10).
	My 1723/10 M.A./.S.B's 53, 56, 58, 59 and and 60 will carry out a Coverying Patrol 10 miles to S. of QUEEN ELIZABETH as far as longitude of Lizard, whence they will return to Portsmouth. (C in C. Portsmouth 2223/10) C. in C. H.F. 1301/10 Concur (C. in C. W.A. 2226/10).
AMBUSCADE.	Sailed for Greenock (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1131/10).
HESPERUS.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1226/10).
NIAGARA.	Position 56 48'N 11 30'W, course 066, speed 12 knots E.T.A. Position C. at daylight (NIAGARA 1400/10 to C. in C. W.A.).
HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK, FERNIE, CLEVELAND.	Your 2116/8. Propose that 4 HUNT-Class Destroyers should proceed to Clyde after escorting QUEEN ELIZABETH and escort RAMILLIES to Devonport. (C. in C. W.A. 1852 /10).
	Approved (D.O.D. H. 2204/10).
PELICAN.	Arrived Tobermory (WESTERN ISLES 2115/10).

Operations.

Operation SPECIMEN.	Sailed PEGASUS as by C. in C. W.A. 1133/9 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0420/10).
Troop Embarkation at Lamlash.	Sailed GLENGYLE, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, FREESIA for Lamlash (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015/10) Sailed GLENROY for Lamlash. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1500/10).

/Proposed operation.

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (continued).

Proposed Operation. (D.O.D.H. 1743/10 to F.O.I.C. Iceland). See Operations Volume.

Iceland. QUEEN OF THANET returned to Reykjavik 2300/11 (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2301/10).

CIRCASSIA In view of possible U Boat activity off Azores, operate in following areas leaving G.2. for F.2. at 1200/11 (F.O.C.N.P. 2230/10 to Western Patrol).

Dover shelled. Five rounds from Cosstal Batteries between 1919 and 1952 today. 4 fell near R.M. Siege Battery and 1 in Dover. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 2234/10).

Submarines.

UPHOLDER. Sailed 1433 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1503/10)

L.26. Sailed for Dundee, escorted by THIRLMERE E.T.A. 0930/11 (A.C.O.S. 1540/10).

SUNFISH. Arrived (S.6. 1635/10).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/11 (V.A.S. 1734/10).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Following being flown today (C. in C. Rosyth 0716/10).

FRIESENLAND. A/C of 217 Sqdn to attack this A/C Security Vessel tonight in dry dock at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/10 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Lorient. A/C of 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack Power Stations, S/M's and Dockyard tonight. A/C of 22 Sqdn to attack S/M's (H.Q.C.C. 1101/10 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy SEASON. Help. My position 51° 47' 1°45'E (HUSSAR 1125/10) Fighters have left C. in C. Nore 1135/10 to HUSSAR)

Convoy. AGENT. Help. Position 57° 41'N (?Longitude) (VERSATILE 1150/10).

/Orkneys..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.40. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (continued.)

Orkneys.	My 1349/9 At 1210/9 A/C attacked UNSTAES at Saxavord, station at Skaa, and Haroldswick, and Surnburgh, and Unst. Particulars. One slight casualty in Unst. (A.C.O.S. 1707/10).
Spurn Head.	Adty. 1927/4. Reply as to failure of A/A guns to engage Enemy A/C at 1710/3 (Antacor 2000/10 to Dacoast 4).
LONDONDERRY.	One A/C dropping Flares in 52°25N 2°E. (LONDONDERRY 2333/10 and 2338/10).

Mining.

Z.M.E. 5.	Intend leave Milford Haven at 1800/10 lay at 2230, returning about 0100/11. (ADVENTURE 1003/10) Completed (ADVENTURE 2345/10).
Thames.	Open. Precaution (F.O.I.C. London 1055/10).
Thames Estuary.	Explosions and Fireworks on Night 9/10 (X.D.O. Sheerness 1215/10).
Dover.	Routine sweeps to 0800/10. One Mine exploded ½ mile West of No. 10 Buoy in QZS 105 (V.A. Dover 1255/10).
Tyne.	Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1315/10).
ARETHUSA.	Arrived Scapa 1307 (A.C.O.S. 1457/10).
SOUTHERN PRINCE.	Arrived Port Z.A. 1540/10 with PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, BATH, and ST. ALBANS (TRELAWNEY 1548/10).
T.Z.R.I.	(Faroese Trawler) Mined at about 0400/10 in 65° 20'N 13° 40'W. May be derelict or sunk. Abandoned by crew. Crew safe. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1742/10) Name was T.Z.R.I. (one) not THORY. Skipper admits knowing prohibited area but thought he was outside it (F.O. Iceland 1603/12).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessel.

1 small slow Vessel bearing 284°12' from Sumburgh at 2325/9. (A.C.C.S. 1607/10).

Warship Among HX 90 2/12.

Following statement by Mr. Crawford of EMPIRE PUMA in HX 90"0130 G.M.T./2. A War vessel either Destroyer or Sloop passed close under my stern. She had two funnels and was heading over to Starboard side steering 120° She appeared to be travelling at considerable speed. About a quarter of an hour afterwards a white flare appeared from her direction. The foremost funnel was very close to bridge and after funnel quite a considerable distance further aft."

Request you interregate all Masters of Ships from HX 90 to obtain further information on this incident. (C. in C. W.A. 2000/10).

BOULOGNE.

R/C at 1440/10 (PIU 2258/10).

BISMARCK
TIRPITZ

French press 23/11 quotes Voelkischer Beobachter announcing commissioning of these ships (A.N.A. Istanbut 1800/10) (N.I.D. Comment).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMPIRE THUNDER.	Your 1720/9. Search should be made back to 58° 4' N 10° 56'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0110/10 to ST. OLAVES) EMPIRE THUNDER returned from O.B.O. 253. Engines disabled (N.C.S.O. Oban 1215/10) EMPIRE THUNDER has arrived Oban (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1442/10 to ST. OLAVES).
LEAMINGTON.	Your 1754/9. Delayed owing to engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0230/10 to C. in C. W.A.) Expect to complete 14/12 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1842/10 to C. in C. W.A.).
WALKER VANSITTART	WALKER's 1040/9. WALKER and VANSITTART arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1012/10).
NYLAND.	(Norwegian 1375 Tons) Proceed to assist. Reported aground on West Rock 56° 14' 30" N 6° 27'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1202/10 to SCHELDE and SUPERMAN) SUPERMAN return to Campbeltown (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1610/10).
ORCHIS.	Aground at Tobermory Proceed to refloat (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1202/10 to SUPERMAN) Refloated. No damage as far as observed. (WESTERN ISLES 1825/10).
KEPPEL.	Asdic out of action. May require docking for repairs to dome (R.A.M.L. 0903/10) Repairs will be carried out on her return to Scapa with FORMIDABLE. (C in C. H.F. 1537/10).
HOLLYHOCK	(Corvette) Damaged in gale. Details Propose sail to Liverpool PM/11 (WESTERN ISLES 1214/10 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).
TULIP.	(Corvette) Consider propellor only damaged (WESTERN ISLES 1214/10).
AGHIA EIRINI.	Now ashore in Clew Bay. Crew all safe on Achill Island. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1713/10 to Adty).
CRAIGMILLER.	(M/S Trawler) Arrived 1400/10 (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft. 1410/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (continued).

ASSURANCE. (Rescue Tug) Arrived. Unfit for sea (F.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1217/10).

WINDSOR. Intend sailing in tow of Tug ST. MELLONS at 0915/11 for Sheerness, escorted by WIDGEON (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1339/10).

MONA'S ISLE (A/A Guardship) Collided with Pier at entrance to Methil Docks today. Request early survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1443/10).

NORTHCOATES. Intend sailing in tow, escorted by rest of 44th M/S Group, to arrive Aberdeen 1200/12 (A.C.O.S. 1820/10).

HAVELOCK. Position 55° 21'N 10° 48'W Details of damage. Am proceeding to Liverpool. (HAVELOCK 2112/10 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated positions 0900/10 (D.T.D. 1920/10).

F.N. 53

Arrived 0430/10 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0507/10).

H.G. 48.

Escorted by DEPTFORD and VIDETTE, position (F.O.C.N.A. 1420A/10) See also North Atlantic.

O.B. and O.G.

Order of sailing escort groups O.B. 260 - O.B. 266 and O.G. 48 (C. in C. W.A. 1528/10).

O.G. 47.

Sailed 0055/10, escort PERIWINKLE (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0101/10) Seaplane carrier PEGASUS sailed from BELFAST at 0420/10 for operations with O.G. 47. (D.O.R.10/12) Route, to avoid S.L. 56 (C. in C. W.A. 1138/10).

H.X.92.

Lost touch with HX 92 at 1000/8. Am now 200 miles from convoy return to Halifax. RODNEY position at 1400 G.M.T./9 058° 17'N 027° 10' 26° 3 knots. (MONTCLARE. 0132/10).

H.X. 92.

From Commodore. Ocean escort and half convoy dispersed by gale. Approximate position 0900 G.M.T. 000° 160 miles from "Horse" course 083° speed 8 knots N.W. gale. 11 ships in convoy. (ROTORUA 1106/10, to Admty).

F.N. 55.

Humber 10/12 departure Salvage Tug NESSUS at 0430 to join F.N. 55 thence Tyne (F.O. Humber 0921/10).

W.N. 52.

1015/10 HORNPIPE H.M. Trawler STELLA CAPELLA S.O. joining Oban R/V 2 ships.

(N.C.S.O. 1033/10).

O.B.M. 258.

1645/11 H.M.T. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. Seven (N.C.S.O. Milford. H. 1136/10).

F.S. 57.

Humber 10/12 departure H.M.T. ORPHEUS at 0300 to join F.S. 57 thence to Yarmouth. (F.O. Humber 1340/10).

/O.B. 257....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10. 12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd.). Shipping. (continued).

O.B. 257. Sailed ANTELOPE escorting O.B. 257. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1422/10).

S.L. 557. Route, to avoid U. boat (D.T.D. 1426/10)

O.B. 259. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1505/10).

4 M.V's Your 1253/9 (Group of 4 M/Vs sailed escorted by LORD, ESSENDEN & JASPER) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1526/10).

F.S. 58. BROADWAY left with F.S. 58 for Hull (N.O.I.C. Methil 1551/10).

H.X. 95. Departures AUSONIA Ocean Escort and RESTIGOUCHE Local Escort HX 95. (S.O.I. Halifax 1630/10).

S.C.14. Commodore S.C. 14 Master of S.S. ATHENIC has been requested to report estimated bearing and distance from "ROBIN" at 0900 G.M.T./12. When intercepted join Convoy providing position is West of 20°W then comply with F.O.C. N. P. 1210/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1900/10 to SALOPIAN).

E.N. 39. 1830/10. H.M.T.'s ULLSWATER, RUMBA, SAON. Additional Escorts JASON, ALYNBANK. 26 Ships 2. Ships for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1925/10).

S.L. 56. Add to my 1920/10 AMBUSCADE will sail as additional escort as far as Skerryvore subsequently to proceed to meet S.L. 56 in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2332/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2343/10).

Troop Convoys. W.S. 5A. Admiralty 2250/6 para 5 A/S Escort for slow group of W.S. 5A. Request destroyers may be sailed as follows. From Portsmouth to Liverpool. From Nore to Greenock. From R.A.M.L. to Greenock. All to arrive A.M./17 if possible. (C in C. W.A. 1456/10).

Transport of Foreign Legion from Camerons in W.S. 5A (D.O.D. (F) 2353/10 see South Atlantic).

Dutch Ships. Behaviour in convoy (see South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CHARLES PLUMIER. Your 1724/9. So long as there is an armed guard on board CHARLES PLUMIER there can be no excuse for an attempt to scuttle this ship succeeding.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1646/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CUBA. Your 1159/22. French N.A. was told in Vichy that CUBA is in Freetown. He write/s officially on behalf of French Admiralty: Submit polite to answer at more length than my present information permits, with some indication of future fate of passengers.
(N.A. Madrid to Adty). (1730/10)

French Submarine Reliefs. Following from French Admiralty via N.A. (begins) Please inform Admiralty that S/M reliefs in Atlantic will take place shortly. First movement; S/Ms LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE, ARETHUSE and ARCHIBALDE escorted by sloop commandant BORY will pass Gibraltar east to west 14/12, between 1000 and 1200 G.M.T. (ends) F.O.C.N.A. please inform F.O."H".
(N.A. Madrid, 1815/10 to Adty).

WYOMING OREGON. My 1304/8 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1645/8. Safe conduct for WYOMING and OREGON received. They should be sailed on 13/12 and 15/12, respectively routed in accordance with my 1913/28/10.
(D.O.D.(H) 2052/10).

PROTEUS. North Atlantic
Intend sailing PROTEUS for Portsmouth p.m./12. E.T.A. in position 041° 00'N., 012° 00'W, 2100 zone minus one 14/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1146/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Azores. Patrol S/Ms. The area within following limit is to be regarded as a sanctuary during dark hours for submarines on Azores patrol 037° 23'N., 025° 08' W., 025° 52'W the South Coast St. Miguel. This area is not to be entered between sunset and sunrise unless chasing an enemy.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1152/10).

CACHALOT. TRIDENT. CACHALOT home route. TRIDENT leaves vicinity Lands End. (date) to relieve you. (Capt: S.2. to CACHALOT 1632/10).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARK ROYAL
Defects.

ARK ROYAL reports S.2. boiler out of action due to fracture of studs. Repairs Estimated time required by ship's staff 15 days from receipt of heat resisting steel. Except for very short period high speed with five boilers is 28 knots.
(S.O. Force H. 1232/10 to Adty).

Minesweepers.

Instruct SWONA with SKUDD 3 SKUDD 4 and SKUDD 5 in position 31° N., 25° W. not to call at St. Vincent except incase of necessity. Whalers are keeping W/T watch in accordance with 1637/30 from N.O.I.C. Ardrossan.
(D.O.D.(F) 1258/40 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. to SWONA etc. 1531/10).

DERBYSHIRE,
ENCOUNTER,
H.G.48,
PROTEUS,
Trawlers.

DERBYSHIRE leave Eastern end of F.2 patrol area at 1800/10 routed through 036° 00'N., 011° 00' W to Gibraltar. ENCOUNTER will pass through position 036° 00'N., 010° 28'W at 1200/12. steering 270° and will escort DERBYSHIRE to Gibraltar. After meeting ENCOUNTER DERBYSHIRE is to adjust speed to arrive off Northern entrance of Gibraltar at 0800/13. Convoy H.G.48 escorted by DEPTFORD also by VINETTE until dark 13/12 p.c.s. at 1200/10 035° 30'N., 008° 00'W., 257° 6½ knots routed through 035° 10'N., 010° 00'W., 039° 00' 017° 00'. PROTEUS sails from Gibraltar 1800/12. KINGSTON TOPAZ on patrol off Lisbon, KINGSTON JACINTH on patrol off Cadiz. Routed.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1420A/10 to DERBYSHIRE).

BERWICK.

My 1702/3 BERWICK will be completed p.m./16 and ready for sea a.m./17.
(A.S. Gibraltar 1630/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Oil for Norwegian Whalers.

My 1135/6. (Oil for Norwegian Whale Catchers from stocks at Ponta Delgada). Inform British Consul Azores it is amending my 1130/6 to him which he could not decypher (begins) At request of Adty. and agreed by Jersey Company please arrange with Manager of Tagus Oil Co. deliver about 15/12 maximum 1000 tons of oil to ten ex-Norwegian Whale Catchers on passage to U.K. for requisitioning asking him to maintain secrecy as to why this supply of oil is required. Consul General (Ends).
(Consul-Gen. New York. 1720/10).

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE.

My 0955/5.(re Vibration in in DORSETSHIRE) Trial satisfactory. Ship appears to be in every way normal and will sail on 10/12 in accordance with your 2215/9.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0937Z/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

ENTERPRISE visit to Montevideo.

Your 0947/10. Visit of ENTERPRISE to Montevideo though essential has had to depend on dates of arrival of CUMBERLAND and NEWCASTLE. QUEEN OF BERMUD'a (corrupt group) CARNARVON CASTLE's repairs and disposal of prisoners. In view of your 1323/9 it is now possible to meet Minister Montevideo's wish. I intend therefore to visit Montevideo in ENTERPRISE 13-15/12 transferring broad pendant to CUMBERLAND at F.O. a.m./16/12 and sailing ENTERPRISE for Simonstown p.m./16.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1214Z/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

ARNDALE ENTERPRISE.

Be at anchorage F.O.2200 G.M.T. Sunday 15/12. ENTERPRISE will probably arrive shortly afterwards.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1215Z/10 to ARNDALE).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND Transfer of Flag.

Leave K 33 (c) a.m. 13/12 and proceed to fuel from Oiler ARNDALE at anchorage F.O. at daylight 16/12. I will transfer you from ENTERPRISE there.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1226Z/10 to CUMBERLAND).

DORSETSHIRE.

Simonstown departures 1215/10.
DORSETSHIRE for Freetown by direct route.
E.T.A.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1230Z/10 to Adty. etc.)

NEWCASTLE, to S.A.D.

Departures 0800/10. NEWCASTLE to join S.A.D. in accordance with C.in C. S.A's 1735N/9.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1003N/10 to Adty).

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Request early reply to my 1039/9 and my 1125/8. CARNARVON CASTLE is leaving South American waters 11/12 and destination must be decided. If repairs can be undertaken and prisoners landed, Simonstown or Capetown would be best solution.
(C.in C. S.A. 1031N/10 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

CARNARVON CASTLE. CANTON.

Your 2259/9. It has been hoped CARNARVON CASTLE could be used for escort on passage to refit but this not desirable in view of extent of damage. Agree fitting of catapult in CANTON be deferred but consider the next A.M.C. suitable for cruising work should be taken in hand for catapult and general improvement in armament as soon as situation improves.
(C.in C. S.A. 1055 /10 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE, QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

After transfer of prisoners CARNARVON CASTLE is to remain in company with QUEEN OF BERMUDA pending instructions from C.in C. S.A. QUEEN OF BERMUDA on completion of oiling is to patrol L.32 and is to enter Montevideo for 24 hours, (date). I will arrange visit. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is subsequently to proceed to patrol K.33. (R.A.S.A.D. 1242/Z/10).

BULOLO.

My 1327N/20/11. Request BULOLO be sailed to arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C. S.A. 1103N/10 to V.A.N.P.)

Dutch Ships in Convoy.

A number of reports have been received during the last two months of Dutch merchant ships in rear of Columns in convoy showing bright lights astern visibile 10 or 12 miles. As a precaution, I am taking steps to ensure that in future no Dutch ship occupies a rear position in any S.R.Convoy, and Commodores are being warned that they should expel from convoy any Dutch ship dropping astern without valid reason. (N.C.S.O.Freetown). 1351/10 to Adty).

Free French Volunteers.

My 1617/5 and 1201/6. Intend to send the Merchant Seaman Volunteers for Free French Forces referred to to Lagos in S.S. ADDA sailing a.m./11, onward passage to Duala arranged. (C.in C. S.A. 1331/10 to Adty).

Foreign Legion, Transport, NEURALIA, CASAMANCE.

Movement referred to in D. of S.T's 0107/7 is now urgent as contract of service for men of Legion expires 31/12 and unless moved from Cameroons some time before that date many may refuse to sign on again. D. of S.T. will allocate transport for troops from Duala to Freetown and C.in C. S.A. is requested to report when this movement can take place so that the troops may be transhipped into NEURALIA at Freetown (date). NEURALIA will be included in Convoy WS. 5A. and will become available after British troops have disembarked. Particularly desired that NEUALIA shall continue in WS 5A. C.in C. S.A. requested to arrange for the M.T. and stores to be embarked in CASAMANCE and vessel sailed independently for port Sudan. (D.O.D.(F) 2353/10 to C.in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

D. of S.T's 2027/1 and0107/7. My 1646/8 Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos' 1415/9. Sailing of CASAMANCE to U.K. by Nigerian Authorities necessitates substitution as mechanical transport to Port Sudan, FORT LAMY now at Duala. Arrangements.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1819/10 to Adty.)

Your C.O./29294/9/12. Matter already in hand through D. of S.T. and Naval Authorities. D. of S.T. 0107/7/12 to C.in C. South Atlantic, etc. refers. Shipping is being arranged to link up with W.S.5A and date of sailing will conform with your requirements.
(W.O. 1910/10 to C.in C. M.E. etc.)

General de Larminat has received telegram from Duala stating that N.C.S.O. now says that Legion will embark on CAPO OLMO and not INDOCHINOIS and material on CASAMANCE which has now left port of Harcourt for unknown destination. CAPO OLMO expected Duala 19th not yet fitted for troops and even after fitting will only hold 650 men. Refer you Mideast tele. No. C.O./29294 of 9th. General de Larminat would appreciate earliest information when Legion can be embarked as a whole.
(20 M.Mission, Brazzaville, 2000/10 to W.O.)

Whalers, South African Force, manning 4 Whalers.

Admty. 1127/8. As result of Cabinet meeting this morning Secretary for Defence, states. Previous political objections not considered insuperable as ships will be employed in waters surrounding Africa provided they are based on port in Africa e.g. Alexandria. (Proposals) Consider enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) is essential to compliance with Naval discipline notwithstanding Union Defence Act (Amendment) Act and Dominion Forces Act 1932 Section 10, observing that S.D.F. is governed by military discipline code. Request

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

very early directions.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 2222/10 to Adty).

ARK ROYAL.
Flight. — S.O.Force H. 1844/8 and V.A. Malta 1731/9 Fully concur with N.O.I.C. Malta. (C.in C. Med. 1258/10 to S.O. Force H.)

Landing Craft. — My 1936/13/11. Revised arrival programme for landing craft and carriers in Middle East. (D.O.D.(F) 1039/10 to C.in C. Med.)

BURGONET
Bosporus Boom. — Adty. 1944/2. Anticipated BURGONET will meet requirements at Suda Bay, provided it does not become necessary to defend another harbour. Important that Turks should be able to lay Bosporus boom rapidly and subsequently maintain it efficiently. (C.in C. Med. 1325/10).

REGULUS
Lost. — 3 days overdue from patrol in Gulf of Otranto and Adriatic and regarded as lost. (C.in C. Med. 1615/10).

Air Reconnaissance. — Tripoli harbour, 4 destroyers 9 M/V's, 5000 -8000 tons. Midday one hospital ship escorted by one destroyer entering harbour. No enemy air activity over Malta. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. 1700/10).

MALAYA
EAGLE. — Your 1941/4. Approved to send MALAYA.
Your 1959/4. Your offer appreciated but EAGLE is not required at present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med. 2137/10).

H.M.S./M X 2.
(formerly
Italian.) — Arrived Suez 10/12 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area. 2343/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Valona bombed.

Operational Summary No. 183 up to 1200/10.
Greece. 9/12. 3 Blenheims made offensive reconnaissance Valona bombs falling on jetty and 3 large Customs houses. 22 ships were seen in the harbour of which 13 were between 5000 and 15000 tons.

F.A.A. Attacks TERROR & APHIS Maktila Bombardment

Egypt. 9/12. Blenheims and Bombays made sustained bombing attacks on Tobruk Bardia and Sollum to prevent enemy reinforcements reaching the Buq Buq area. F.A.A. aircraft also bombed the escarpment road at Sollum to cut off enemy reinforcements from Buq Buq and co-operated with TERROR and APHIS in bombardment of Maktila.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1255/10).

Military Advance, Western Desert, Operations in Support.

Following supporting operations are taking place in conjunction with attack in Western Desert.

TERROR and APHIS bombarded Maktila Camp and LADYBIRD the Headquarters Camp at Sidi Barani on night 8th/9th. R.A.F. and Fleet Air Arm co-operated, bombing and flaring. Three destroyers were in support. Bombardments are reported to have been successful aircraft reporting that all salvoes fell in target areas. Clouds of dust from TERROR's gunfire made observation results difficult. Stores have been sent to Mersa Matruh by X Lighter ready to put ashore behind advanced troops if necessary to ease army transport difficulties. TERROR and gunboats remain in support, BARHAM, VALIANT and destroyers proceeding so as to be able to bombard Sollum and Escarpment Roads should army require. WARSPITE is at short notice to support if desirable. ILLUSTRIOUS 3rd C.S. and destroyers proceeding to carry out night attack by aircraft on Eb Adam aerodrome returning so as to give fighter support to battleships. Intend issuing following communique:- During nights 8/12 and 9/12 Naval Units successfully bombarded Maktila Camp and Sidi Barani in support of Army operations.
(C.in C. Med., 1635/10 to Adty).

Italian Mines.

My 1125/8 para.3. Some (?surface) explosions of drifting mines are probably caused by hydrostatic safety switch on 6 horned Italian contact mines being rendered inoperative by marine growth.

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Mines. (Contd.)

This has occurred in 2 mines of this type which have been recovered. About half drifting mines in this area, 6 horned type.
(V.A. Malta 2011/10 to C.in C. Med.)

Movement Summary No. 175.

Force 'D' comprising ILLUSTRIOUS 3rd C.S. four destroyers left Alexandria 1500/10 to operate off Libya night 10/11 and join Force (C) comprising BARHAM, VALIANT, COVENTRY seven destroyers in 032° 24' 026° 09' at 0700 11.
Force 'C' left Alexandria 1600/10 for above R/V proceeding thence to operate off Sollum. TERROR, BAGSHOT, LADYBIRD. APHIS operating off coast between Matruh and Sollum ULSTER PRINCE escorted by DEFENDER left Suda for Kaso Straits p.m./10 E.T.A. Port Said a.m.12. DEFENDER parting company dark 11/12 to arrive Alexandria 11. Convoy A.N.10 escorted by HYACINTH leaves Port Said A.M.12 proceeding through 033° 30' 028° 02' to pass Kaso Straits 0001/15 then through 035° 47' 024° 50' to Piraeus. SALVIA and convoy leave Alexandria p.m.12 to join A.N.10 070°/14. COVENTRY and DEFENDER leave Force 'C' and Alexandria respectively p.m.13 to join A.N.10 0700/14. H.M.S. FIONA leaves Piraeus a.m.11 to arrive Alexandria p.m.13. H.M.S. AJAX and H.M.A.S. SYDNEY covering until East Gavdo Island then proceeding Suda. T.O.O. 2105/10.
(C.in C. Med. 2352/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Aden Facilities. S.N.O. Red Sea requests provision of following to improve unloading facilities at Aden. Request possibility of supplying any of these craft from Indian or East African waters. (D. of S.T. 0426/10 to P.S.T.O. India).

U.S.8. Your 1155/7 and D. of S.T. 1722/9. Desirable that ships selected for onward U.S.Convoys from Colombo should be capable of 15 knots at least. Request that faster ships than RAJULA and ROHNA may be selected for U.S.8. if possible. (C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/10. to P.S.T.O. India).

MAHSUD. Request you sail MAHSUD on 11/12 for Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I. 0812/10 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

RANCHI. To leave Colombo 0400Z/12 and proceed Durban via 1½° and Mozambique Channels calling at Mahe, Seychelles, for fuel. To arrive Durban (date) (C.in C. E.I. 0814Z/10 to RANCHI)

Suspicious Vessel. My 2044/9. (Suspicious vessel sighted by Norwegian ship FOSNA). Suspicious vessel was KATIE MOLLER. (C.in C. E.I. 0910Z/10)

SOUTHAMPTON. My 2114/8. A.O. Nairobi is providing air protection for SOUTHAMPTON. (C.in C. E.I. 1108Z/10 to Adty).

U.S.7. CALEDON. Departure 1100Z/10, CALEDON to join U.S.7. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1146Z/10).

Appointment. Your 1846/18/11 approved. Necessary appointments being issued. (Hd. of C.W. to C.in C. E.I. 1546/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CARTHAGE. My 1156/28. After leaving C.M.7 CARTHAGE is to proceed to patrol in area between 26° and 030° S., and 037° and 044° E. CARTHAGE is to leave patrol to arrive Durban (date).
(C.in C. E.I. 0816Z/10).

Whalers. Your 1126/3. As these Whalers have already fuelled at a Portuguese port it is very undesirable that they should do so again within three months. It is considered that they can reach Mombasa with a safe margin, subject to C.in C. S.A. confirming that their passage from St. Helena to the Cape was made without re-fuelling.
(D.O.D.(F) 1257/10 to C.in C. E.I.)

PROTECTOR defects. My 0557/10. H.M. Tug PROTECTOR returned to harbour with minor engine room defects. Expects to sail a.m./11.
(S.O.I. Bombay 1434Z/10).

Air Report, Convoy B.S.10. Summary Number 181 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 10/12. 1200 to 1400 1 Blenheim 8 Sqdn. made armed photographic reconnaissance Jibouti, Zeila, Barbera Hargeisa. Only opposition moderate inaccurate A.A. from bofors position Hargeisa. Bombs dropped at 2255 near this position. Three Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter escorts to convoy B.S.10 1 using advanced base Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden. 2006/10).

Kismayu attack, SOUTHAMPTON. SOUTHAMPTON reports as follows on her attack on shipping at Kismayu p.m./10 Closed to 15000 yards and opened fire on YAMAYURI MARU. Four guns from six inch battery on Mtanga Papa Island opened fire simultaneously first salvo cutting Halyards. SOUTHAMPTON fired seven salvoes but results not apparent. Withdrew under fire of three batteries which continued accurate shooting up to 24000 yards. No damage or casualties in SOUTHAMPTON. Air report not yet received.
(C.in C. E.I. 2020Z/10 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Aden Port Facilities.

My 1654/2/11, shows a need for modernisation of Aden Port for war purposes. Port Trust have now produced a sketch plan. Fear their scheme would take too long and cost too much. Should appreciate your opinion as to quickest way to produce at least two leading berths, with extention to four if desired.
(S.N.O. Red Sea 1757Z/10 to Adty).

China.

DAUNTLESS
CRICKET
TARANTULA
GURNA.

Nancowry 9/12 departure for Colombo at 0900Z. (C.in C. China, 0259/10 to Adty. and C.in C. E.I.)

Shipping Withdrawal.

Your 0223/17/10 and 0257/3/12. The gradual withdrawal of British and Allied ships from Japanese waters is under constant consideration. Under (a) of your 0223/17/10, decision has renently been reached to requisition two vessels and Consul-General, Shanghai, has been so informed. Under (b), several ships have already been withdrawn and policy of "thinning" is likely to be accelerated in the near future.
(Hd. of M. 1143/10 to C.in C. China).

Raider Description.

Addition to his 1621/7. Captain's name is Capitan Zue See Rogge.
(C.in C. China 1609Z/10).

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE.

On completion fuelling to proceed at 20 knots to Yucaton Channel.
(C.in C. A.W.I. to DIOMEDE 0932/10).

DIOMEDE arrived Kingston. (N.O.I.C. Jamaica, 1301/10) Left again 2210 zone plus 5. (S.O.I. Kingston 2210/10)

/ROYAL SOVEREIGN...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies, Contd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Arrived 10/12 from Gibraltar, (S.O.I., Halifax, 1630/10)

Loop Laying — In view of Admty. 1548/9, cancel my 1002/8 (C. in C., A.W.I., 0922/10 to Capt i/c Trinidad)

U.S.S. BADGER, Grounding — Assistance by R.N. when aground at Bermuda on 4/12. Propose not to claim salvage, as similar circumstance may constantly arise at leased bases. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1034/10 to Admty.)

ST. CROIX NIAGARA ST. CLAIR — SAINT CROIX has proceeded southward to obtain better weather conditions. She reports unable to steer eastward due to heavy following seas and frequent breakdown of steering and has been unable to search eastward for NIAGARA and SAINT CLAIR. Latter ships have sufficient fuel to last midnight 13th-14th and had orders to proceed to U.K. independently if separated. SAINT CROIX intends unless weather conditions alter to return to Halifax via St. Johns N.F. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, to Admty. 1018/10)

Report situation, breaking W/T silence at your discretion to do so. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1253/10 to SAINT CROIX)

MONTCLARE To Locate — My 1711/19. MONTCLARE endeavour to locate ST. CROIX and escort her towards St. Johns N.F. if in need of assistance. ST CROIX report position course and speed via Halifax W/T for information of MONTCLARE. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1256/10 to ST. CROIX, MONTCLARE)

MONTCLARE ST. CROIX — Your 2212/10 to F.O.C. 3rd B.S. only. Your future action must depend on reply from SAINT CROIX to my 1256/10 asking for his p.c.s. Remain searching to southward and westward of area given in my 1711/9 for further 24 hours unless further signal is received. Report your present p.c.s. (F.O.C. 3.B.S. 2236/10 to MONTCLAR

SATURNAS — New York's 1944/5. Galveston reports master of SATURNAS did not (?call for) route instructions although agents were informed that N.C.S.O's assistance was advisable and available. No signal has yet been made to SATURNAS. Request instructions (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1259/10 to Admty.)
Further re routeing (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1806/10 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

10.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Japan, Communications — 9/12. Have learnt Japanese authorities have prohibited postal communication between Marshall and Gilbert Islands. (Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, to Admty., T.H.I., 2110/10)

Raider — My 0054Z/9, (Shipping attacked by enemy raider off Nauru) No publicity of any kind yet released. Request you conform. (A.C.N.B. 1106 Z/10, to Admty., etc.)

SILKSWORTH (Mined) — British, 4921 tons. My 1300Z/7. SILKSWORTH was mined inside 100 fathoms line. She was fitted with paravanes and paravanes were inboard and not streaming at time. Action is being taken in Australian Station to warn masters of paravane fitted ships in terms of para 222 of D.E.M.S. part 1. (A.C.N.B., 1122/10 to Admty, etc.)

HERTFORD (mined) — HERTFORD, British 10,923 tons, mined, has been towed into Port Lincoln, South Australia. (D.O.R., 10/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BABITONGA	B.3. report from Santos, may sail shortly. (N.A., Rio de Janiero, 1730/10)
WINNETOU	Left Kobe 7/12. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 0754/10
ANNELIESE ESSBERGER	Correspondence intercepted in Canada from Master states ship sold to Japanese. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0754/10)
GLENGARRY Sunk	Launched at Copenhagen 6/11/39 for the British Glen Co. but taken over by Germans was sunk on her maiden voyage early in November between shipyard and Germany. (D.S. 462, Air Min. D.S. 512)
ATLAS	Arrival 10/12. (Valencia, 1930/10) from Barcelona. First movement of this ship since 31/8/1939. (D.S. 463)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LELLO	Left 9/12 for Genoa. (Barcelona, 1807/10)

MOST SECRET

10.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

PALMELLA
(Sunk 1/12)

British 1578 tons. Your 1520/9. PALMELLA sunk by torpedo 1935/1 in 40.30 N., 23.30 W one rating killed remainder now safe in Lisbon. This was reported in N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1939/6 in accordance with N.C.S. instructions 69 and was not reported by me to avoid duplication. No information about GWALIA (N.A.Lisbon 1545/10 to D.N.I.)

0736 — S.W. of Cape Verde Is. very indefinite position. (D.S. 462) (D.D.I.C. 1050/10) (C. in C., S.A., 1220/10 to KENT, etc.)

2320 — D.F., probable U-Boat, unreliable fix. 50° 50' N., 7° 10' W. (D.D.I.C. 2335/10)

1750/9 — S/M reported in 39.38 N., 28.09 W., at 1750/9 (F.O.C.N.A., 0314/10)

1950 — 53.25 N., 19.30 W., position indefinite, Italian. (D.S. 463)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 or possibly 2 in Azores area
1 bound for Gironde may be about 46° N., 10° W.,
1 bound for N.W.Approaches may be about 50' N., 14° W.
1 in N.W.Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 homeward bound may be West of Ireland.

German- There is little information on which to estimate number or posttions of U-Boats operating but:-
1 is still in Cape Verde Islands area
1 may be bound for Lorient in about 48° N., 10° W.
2 may be between 52° N., and 55° N., East and West respectively of 20° W.
2 may be between 55° N., and 57° N., East of 15° W., and 20° W., respectively.
(D.D.I.C. 1334/10)

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MOST SECRET.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dungeness.
6-inch M.N.B.D.O.
Coast Defence
Battery.

Request early relief of R.M. Personnel by Army Personnel until 2nd.M.N.B.D.O. formed. (V.C.N.S.1212/11 to War Office.)

SUNFLOWER,
WINDFLOWER,
TRILLIUM.

My 1312/2 and 1626/10. SUNFLOWER is allocated to Londonderry for 1st or 2nd escort groups in place of WINDFLOWER which is allocated to Greenock. for 3rd.or.4th escort groups.

Allocations.

2. WINDFLOWER and TRILLIUM are Canadian manned and it is therefore desirable that both should be based at Greenock. (C in C. W.A. 1350/11.)

VAILLANT.

Request report as to whether worth refitting. If not, crew will be discharged to COURBET for disposal. (DOD.H.1613/11 to C in C. WA.)

DELUGE.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/11. (D.C.1134/11 and 2033/11.)

Movements.

RODNEY.
MATABELE.
ESCAPADE.
ELECTRA.
BULLDOG.

R.A.D. to sail 4 Destroyers AM/11 to R/V with RODNEY in 59 32' N. 26 W at 1200/13 where RODNEY leaves Convoy HX.93 and proceeds Scapa. Alternative R/V if Destroyers unable make R/V in time. Route for RODNEY. C in C. Rosyth requested arrange A/S Air Escort during daylight 14th and 15th. (C in C. HX.0106/11 to R.A.D.)
MATABELE with ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, BULLDOG, proceeds passing Switha 1030/11 to R/V with RODNEY at 1200/13 and escort to Scapa as in C in C.HF.0106/11. (RAD.HF.0645/11).

FORMIDABLE.
AMBUSCADE.
DOUGLAS.
KEPPEL.
VIMY

My 2343/10. AMBUSCADE returns to Clyde after leaving FORMIDABLE at Skerryvore as by C in C.WA.0032/11. (FOIC.Greenock 0109/11 to Adty.).
Arrived DOUGLAS and KEPPEL.(FOIC. Greenock 0247/11.)

/Sailed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

FORMIDABLE
AMBUSCADE
DOUGLAS
KEPPEL
VIMY- Contd.

Sailed FORMIDABLE, VIMY, KEPPEL, AMBUSCADE as by my 1920/10 and 2343/10 to carry out Flying Practices on passage. (F.O.Greenock 0821/11 to Admty.)

Return to Campbeltown when detailed. Report E.T.A. (D. 12 1147/11 to AMBUSCADE)

QUEEN ELIZABETH
SOUTHDOWN
BRILLIANT
EXMOOR

Comply with my 1301/10. (C. in C., H.F. 0117/11 to QUEEN ELIZABETH)

Your 1510/9 (Destroyers) Arrived (C. in C., Portsmouth 0937/11 to C. in C., Nore)

Your 2004/10. (Destroyers) All arrived (C. in C., Portsmouth 1018/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 1723/10. As it is possible a U-Boat has laid Mines in Q.Z.F. 15, request you order Destroyers of 5th D.F. to run T.S.D.S. between Lands End and Lundy Island. (C. in C., W.A., 1304/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

My 1723/10. Movements delayed. Intend ship pass gate 1830 today. Route as arranged Speed dependent on wenther. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1333/11 to Admty.)

My 1414/10. Owing to wenther it is expected QUEEN ELIZABETH will be late at R/V. (R.A.D. H.F. 1745/11 to SOUTHDOWN)

Cancel my 1333/11. Movement will be carried out as in my 1723/10 plus 24 hours. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1817/11 to Admty.)

My 1745/11. QUEEN ELIZABETH 24 hours late Enter Greenock, complete with fuel, and R/V at 1600/13 as by my 1414/10. (R.A.D. H.F. 2156/11 to SOUTHDOWN)

My 2223/10. (M.A/S.B. Screen) Patrol cancelled owing to wenther (C. in C., Portsmouth 1426/11)

E.T.A. 0815/12. EXMOOR and BRILLIANT in company. (SOUTHDOWN 2359/11 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

/A.110.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

A. 110 11/12 reference my A 102 of 10/12. CHAIN in company with four destroyers leaves Portsmouth 1100/11 for Spithead and remains at Spithead until 1600/11. Provide protection from 1100/11 until 1600/11. CHAIN then leaves Spithead at 1600/11 provide escort from 1600/11 until dusk /11 as arranged in par (a) of my A. 102 of 10/12. (H.Q.F.C. 0430/11 to 11 Group)

A. 120 11/12 reference A. 117 11/12. Admiralty have notified postponement of CHAIN. Expected time of departure Portsmouth not yet known. Further information will be signalled as soon as available. (H.Q.F.C. 2100/11)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.12.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

14th. A/S. S/F.	Arrived. (FOIC. Greenock 0237/11 to NOIC. Aberdeen)
NIAGARA) ST. CLAIR.) SCIMITAR.	E.T.A. Greenock 1500/11. (NIAGARA 0705/11). Arrived NIAGARA and ST. CLAIR. (FOIC. Greenock 1745/11). Sailed Londonderry 10/12 for Belfast. (NOIC. Londonderry 0942/11.) Arrived. (FOIC. BELFAST 1444/11.)
JERSEY.	Arrived 1105 at Plymouth.(C in C.W.A. 1232/11.)
VENOMOUS.	Sailed as by your 1902/10. (FOIC. Belfast 1452/11 to C in C.WA.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (ACOS.1537/11.)
HAVELOCK.	Arrived. (FOIC. Liverpool 1601/11.)
LINCOLN.	Sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 0920/13. (FOIC. Milford Haven 1332/11.)
DIDO.) ECLIPSE).	Your 1800/8. Intend retain DIDO in company till position 7 in 10°W, and then route her through Minches. (RAMILLIES 1700/9 to C in C. WA.) Adty. 2222/5. ECLIPSE is to proceed to Scapa in company with DIDO. (C in C. HF. 1751/11.)
LE TRIOMPHANT.	Sails Plymouth 1730/12 for Scapa via Irish Sea. Speed 18knots. (C in C.WA. 1940/11.)
FYTCHLEY.	Arrived 2303/11. (FOIC. Greenock 2315/11.

MOST SECRET.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air Searches. To-day SA.2 and SA.3. (C. in C. Rosyth 0710/11.)
Assessments. (C.in C.Rosyth 2114/11.)

Fighter Patrol. Patrol of Blenheim A/C from Buchan Ness to Flamborough and return.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0712/11.)

Bordeaux.
Lorient. AP/656 11/12. Operations for tonight 11/12 December. (A) Available aircraft of No. 22 Squadron to submarine targets in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. (B) Available aircraft Nos. 83 and 89 squadrons to submarines and dockyard targets at Lorient.
(H.Q.C.C. 1419/11 to 16 Group, Thorney.)

Brest. No. 217 Sqdn. to attack FRIESENLANDT in dock tonight.(H.Q.C.C.1420/11 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Patrols. NEWT being flown this evening.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1642/11.)

Arbroath. Request very early action to render following positions available for Beacons. Night flying cannot start until this is done. (R.A.N.A.S. 1743/11 to Adty.)

Following from Air Ministry "X728 Cipher 10/12 begins:- Information received that kites are flown by some A A formation in conditions of good visibility by day from Branchester Beach 28 miles West of Cromer. Request full particulars of purpose and authority for flying if known. Pilots have not been warned of A A activities in this particular locality. Ends.
This appears to concern Admiralty.
Request you reply direct.
(DACOAST 4.2136/11 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

CONVOY FS57. BOOTY attacked by A/C in 51° 37' N. 1° 14'E (LONDONDERRY 1040/11/2 A/C.4 Bombs. No hits. (LONDONDERRY 1056/11.)

CONVOY FS57. PILOT shadowed by 2 A/C in 51° 33' N. 1° 7' E. (CONVOY 1058/11.) shadowed by 1 A/C. in 51° 54' N. 1° 37' E. (WESTON 1408/11.). Being attacked in 51° 44' N. 1° 25' E.(Rosyth W/T 1408/11.) One A/C circling in 52° 21'N. 2° 1' E. A seaplane. (VIMIERA 1855 and 1910/11.)

LANARK. (FS57) (British, 1904 Tons) Attacked by A/C. in Barrow Deep. (North Foreland Radio 1444/11.)

SAXON QUEEN. (FS57.) (British, 482 tons) Slightly damaged by Air Attack today, but able proceed up river A.M./12 under own power. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1818/11 to C in C. Nore.)

TOR. (F.S.57.) (Swedish, 1130 Tons) Slightly damaged by Air Attack today, but can proceed up river AM/12 under own power. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1818/11.)

MOST SECRET.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

CACHALOT. Homeward Route Azores to Plymouth. (F.O.C.W.P. 1106/11 to Western Patrol.)

SUNFISH. My 2139/9. Reports sank one ship at 1509/6 in 62° 7'N.8°6'E.; attacked one ship at 1602/6 in 62° 58' N. 6° 60'E, no hits; and probably one hit on ship at 1516/7 in 62° 10' N.8° 5'E. (VAS. 1811/11).

RUBIS. To leave Patrol at 1800/13. Route. (S.9.1417/11.)

L.23. Sailed for Scapa escorted by THIRLMERE. E.T.A. 0900/12. (S.9.1439/11).

STURGEON. Arrived. (S.6. 1522/11.)

UPHOLDER) Sailed USK, UNIQUE 1442. E.T.A.
UNIQUE.) Gibraltar UPHOLDER 0700/17, USK
USK.) 0700/18, UNIQUE 1200/18.
(C in C. Portsmouth 1807/11.)

PROTEUS. Your 1140/10. Onward route.(C. in C. WA.1634/11.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/12. (V.A.S. 1736/11.)

O.21. E.T.A. 0917/12. (O.21. 1920/11 to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)

MOST SECRET.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

ROBINIA.
Fishing off
Iceland.

(Trawler) My 1742/10. K.O. Seidio Fiord reports she trawled up one Mine which exploded and another Mine exploded on bow. Crew abandoned ship and she is presumed sunk, about 14 miles E.N.E. of Glettinganes. Master states he had permission from Grimsby to fish in this area. (F.O. Iceland 0932/11 to Adty.)
My 0932/11. Master reports probably 11 other British Trawlers in same area. Am endeavouring to recall all British Trawlers fishing off East Coast.
(F.O. Iceland 1734/11 to Adty.)

Thames.

My 1055/10. River now normal.
(F.O.I.C. London 1501/11.)

Firth of Forth.

Local Searched Channel named "Grangemouth East" is established as follows.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1534/11.)

B.S.47.

TEVIOT BANK escorted by ICARUS to lay on 14/12 or as soon after as possible for 6½ miles 328° from 56° 10' N. 1° 23' W. No mines to be laid North of 56° 16' N.
(D.O.D.H. 1619/11.)

Harwich.

H.J. reports A/C has just dropped 2 objects in water 2 miles North of B.4. Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1910/11 to C. in C. Nore.)
A/C dropped 3 black cylinders 4 feet long in 200° 1 mile from B.8. Buoy, at 1310/11.
(C. in C. Nore 2053/11 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CASTLETON — After peak and tiller-flat flooded and bilge-suction choked. Position 53° 20' N 5° 40' W., May be necessary to proceed to Milford Haven. (CASTLETON 0815/11 to N.O.I.C.Liverpool) proceed to Milford Haven (C. in C., W.A., 1050/11 to CASTLETON) Intend sail CASTLETON for Portsmouth (F.O. Milford Haven, 1811/11 to C. in C., W.A.)
Your 1811 CASTLETON is not to sail until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2234/11 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

ADAMANT — (Admty Dumb Lighter) Ashore on Trinity Sands, Humber. Apparently undamaged. Will attempt refloat Friday. (C.S.O.H.A. Grimsby 0900/11 to F.O.Humber)

DIONYSIOS STATHATOS — Broken down in 58° 19' N., 22° 15' W., CAROLINA THORDEN standing by to tow. (EDINBURGH 1030/11 to A.C.O.S.) Crew abandoned ship, taken off by CAROLINA THORDEN. Master remains on board. (Valentia Radio 1504/11) Abandoned in sinking condition. All crew saved. (Valentia Radio 1751/11)

PETWORTH — (British 972 tons) Slightly damaged by collision with tug VINCIA a.m/5. (N.O.I.C Ramsgate 1130/11 to Admty.)

AGHIA EIRINI — On side on rocks one cable from Carraun Point, S. end of Achill Island with heavy seas breaking over her. Local view is that she will become a total wreck. (.F.O.I.C. Belfast 1703/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

NORTHCOATES — Arrived 1608 in tow of A/S Trawler CAPE NYE-METSKI (A.C.O.S. 1835/11 to Admty.)

2 Lifeboats — A/C report 2 lifeboats with survivors in 58° 58' N., 11° 18' W., at 1835. (C. in C., W.A., 1918/11 to VETERAN)

BURNHAM — Have sustained damage as follows. Position 55° 45' N., 13° 4' W., (BURNHAM 1921/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

ENGLISH TRADER — My 0212/6. BRIDGEWATER has been sent to assist. (C. in C., S.A. 2139/11 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS-Contd.

Ships in Distress

In the case of the following ships which have made Distress Signals it has not been possible up to the present to render assistance. Request I may be informed if any further information is received regarding any of these ships.

SERINGA at 0306/6 in 57° 52' N., 23° 56' W. Damage not stated- Required assistance.

SALTWICK at 1424/5 in 57° 10' N., 26° 30' W Steering gear smashed.

ASHCREST at 1019/8 in 55° 12' N., 10° 02'W Ship unmanageable. Tugs assistance essential. Search by aircraft and Surface Vessels has failed to locate.

MERCHANT at 1144/6 15 miles East of Inishtrahull. Search has failed to locate.

NYLAND at 0750/6 Aground on West Rock Isle of Hull. Tug SCHELDE has searched but cannot locate.

(C. in C., W.A., 2350/11)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Situation at 0900/11 (D.T.D. 1107/11 to C. in C. H.F.).

H.X. 91. Arrived less COMANCHEE, PACIFIC PIONEER, SALTWICK, SPAR, SKARAAS, TREKIEVE, (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1039/11).

F.N. 57. Sailed 0818/11 20 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1042/11).

F.S. 56. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 0916/11).

O.B. 260. Route (D.T.D. 1556/11).

H.X. 92. About half convoy scattered (D.T.D. to C. in C. H.F. 1107/11).

S.C. 13. 37 ships, arrived, 7 Norwegian, 3 Greek, 1 Dutch remainder British (D.S. 463, 11/12).

E.N. 38. All 7 ships arrived (N.C.S.O Oban 1730/1

F.S. 59. Sailed 2300/11, 16 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2335/11).

F.N. 61
F.S. 62
F.S. 63 Amend and continue my 1019/6, convoy forecast (C. in C. Rosyth 1437/11).

H.X. 95. Sailing telégrams Escorts AUSONIA, VOLTAIRE (C.C.H.C. Halifax. 1120/11 1115/11).

E.N. 51. Amend my 2041/8. Number of ships to read 10. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1511/11).

O.B. O. 257. Escort NORWICH CITY (N.C.S.O. Oban 1045/11).

F.N. 55. BULLFINCH sailed to Join F. N. 55 0005/11. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0007/11).

F.N. 57. Southend 11/12 departure for Methil H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY with Convoy F.N. 57. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1051/11).

Great Yarmouth 11/12 departure Group 12 GRAMPIAN, DOROTHY LAMBERT, SUMA and JAMES LAY at 1707 to join F.N. 57. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1806/11, to C. in C. Nore).

/E.N. 51.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (continued)

Convoys. (contd).

W.N. 51. 0933 CURACOA left Scapa for convoy W.N. 51 (A.C.O.S. 1015/11)

O.B. 257. Position course and speed of convoy at 0830, 312° Mull Of Galloway, 19 miles 341° 8 knots. (ANTELOPE, 0901/11 to ACTIVE).

Liverpool and Milford Haven sections of O.B. 257 expect o arrive at rendezvous four hours late. Have sent HEATHER and LADY MADELEINE to reinforce ANTELOPE and retain ACHATES and PICOTEE with Clyde and Oban sections who will proceed at slow speed. Consider unlikely all sections to join up before tomorrow forenoon. Propose ANTELOPE should proceed arrive Londonderry in daylight today. (ACTIVE 1115/11 to C. in C. W.A.).

Commodore requests you will turn back so as to join before dark. My position course and speed are 055°19' N 005°59'W 315 °7 knots. (ANTELOPE, 1250/11 to ACTIVE).

Estimate O.B. 257 will meet Clyde portion of E.N. 38 about 2000 tonight in 056°00'N 007° 08'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1452/11 to ANTELOPE, ACTIVE, etc.).

H.X. 92. To keep clear of O.B. 256. After passing through 59° 15' N 13° 44'W H.X. 92 steer direct to splitting position (C. in C. W. A. 1128/11 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)

Cancel my 1128/11 To avoid U. boat in 58° 30' N. 11°00' W. amended route for H.X. 92. (C. in C.W.A. 1252/11 to VETERAN., etc.).

F.S. 58. Humber 11/12 Departure LL Trawler HORTENSIA at 0920 to join F.S. 58 for Yarmouth (F.O. Humber 1100/11).

/F.S. 58. FRANKLIN.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (continued)

Convoys (contd).

F.S. 58. FRANKLIN.	Adm. 1945/10 (re taking in hand of FRANKLIN) and FRANKLIN's 1746/10. If hydographic instruction No. 15. is completed FRANKLIN should be sailed for Southen with F.S. 58 tomorrow Thursday. (C. in C. Nore 1210/11 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
	C. in C. Nore's 1210/11. Hydrographic instruction No 15 completed intend to proceed at 0830 tomorrow to join F.S. 58 at South Shipwash buoy. (FRANKLIN 1932/11).
E.N. 40. W.N. 53.	Act as additional A.A. escort to E.N.40. sailing from Methil at 2230/12. On meeting transfer to W.N. 53 due Cape Wrath 2030/14 and Duncansby 1030/15. Code word for E.N. 40 PADDLE and for W.N. 53 MUSTER. Keep steam at immediate notice oTf Methil 12/12 and be prepared to slip cable as necessary to engage enemy aircraft. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1315/11, to FLEETWOOD amended 1643/11).
	On meeting transfer to Convoy W.N. 52, S.O. STELLA CAPELLA A.A. Escort JASON, due Duncansby Head 1050/12. On meeting convoy E.N. 40 sailing from Methil at 2230/12 and expected Buchanness 1200/13 transfer to that convoy. (R.A.D.H.F. 1353/11 to ALYNBANK).
E.N.40.	2230/12 H.M.T.'s KING SOL, ARAB. Additional escort FLEETWOOD. 23 ships (10 overseas). Code words E.N. 40 PADDLE E.N.L. portion MONITOR E.N.O. portion MIXTURE. (N.O.S.O. Methil 1551/11).
H.X. 92.	If not in contact with part of H.X. 92 proceed to position given by ROTORUA (C. IN C. W.A. 1516/11 to VETERAN) (See U Boat Campaign).
	My 1516 If in company part of HX 92 detach one destroyer to hunt submarine and assist ROTORUA torpedoed in 058° 56' N 011° 20' W at 1400. (C. in C. W.A. 1618/11 to VETERAN).

/S.L. 57.

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping
S.L. 57	My 1528/10. Destroyer of 3rd Escort Group are to escort BULOLO and WORCESTERSHIRE outward on 16/12 and are to rendezvous with S.L. 57 S at 1000/18 in position 54° 35' N., 17° 40' W. F.O.C. Northern Patrol is requested to route A.M.C.'s accordingly Remainder of 3rd Escort Group is to be sailed to rendezvous with S.L. 57 at 1000/8. (C. in C., W.A., 1534/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, etc.)
S.L. 56	Cancel my 0032/11. When detached from FORMIDABLE proceed to meet S.L. 56 estimated position at 2000/11 055° 50' N., 013° 30' W., (route) Convoy is probably scattered. (C. in C., W.A., 1728/11 to AMBUSCADE)
	Following ships in company. My p.c. and s. Have sustained damage (details) (BURNHAM, 1921/11)
	C. in C., W.A., 1728/11. Cancel my 0130/11 (Capt D. 12. 2103/11 to O.1/c A/S Est., Campbeltown, etc.)
SATURNUS Swedish Tanker	My 1844/5 and Admty. 1649/6. Orders from Swedish Embassy Stockholm diverted SATURNUS New York arrived 10/12 sailed 0530 G.M.T. 11/12 (route) due Petsamo (date) (1151/11
	Your 1259/10. Swedish Authroities have now ordered Swedish Ship SATURNUS to call New York for route instructions. (D.E.W.D 1903/11 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
TRoop Convoys W.S. 5 A.	Admty. 2250/6 (A/S escort for slow groups of W.S. 5 A) NAIAD, wearing the flag of C.S. 15 and BONAVENTURE have been detailed. (C. in C., H.F., 1753/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Interception of French Ships

Your 1224/5. Policy is confirmed, but French territorial waters may be infringed to intercept unescorted vessels as well as escorted ones. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A. 1133/11)

Martinique

Navy Dept. From Martinique. Admiral Robert left Fort de France p.m./8 in French Gunboat BARFLEUR and arrived Point A Pitre a.m/9. Believed his stay will last two days. (N.A.Washington 1045/11 to Admty.)

Following further information received: BARFLEUR arrives back at Martinique today and will depart for French Guiana returning about 20/12. (N.A.Washington 1209/11 to Admty)

Dakar Ships Arrived

From Navy Department. From Dakar 9/12 following French ships arrived from North VILLE DE VERDUN, COND, SOYESQUIEU and SAN PEDRO. Destination VILLE DE VERDUN is Madagascar. (.N.A.Washington 1100/1)

COMPIEGNE

French ship COMPIEGNE will probably sail p.m./12 for Casablanca (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1141/11 to F.O.I.C. Gib)

My 1141/11 French COMPIEGNE sails from Lisbon 0500/12. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1524/11, F.O.C.N.P., 1930/11 to Western Patrol, F.O.C.N.A. 2117/11 to N.A.Stn.)

My 2117 COMPIEGNE will reach R.V. for escort at 3 miles limit off Lisbon at 0700/12 G.M.T. and will wait for escort if it is late. (F.O.C.N.A., 2335/11 to N.A. Stn)

My 2117 and my 2335. If COMPIEGNE is intercepted and unescorted she is to be sent in to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2337/11 to ENCOUNTER)

WYOMING OREGON

Request you ask French N.A. whether his Govern ent will agree to WYOMING or OREGON calling in at Gibraltar to repatriate 88 French merchant seamen and officers anxious to return to unoccupied France. WYOMING sails from U.K. for Toulon on 13/12 and OREGON on 15/12. (Hd. of M., 1225/11 to N.A.Madrid)

/French S/M....

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French S/M Reliefs

N.A. Madrid's 1815/10. Intend acting in accordance with your 2237/16/10.(French Forces proceeding to and from Casablanca Not to be interfered with) (F.O.C.N.A. 1724/11 to Admty.)

North Atlantic

BERWICK

Your 1630/10. (Completion of BERWICK) Very satisfactory. (1st S.L., to .A.S., Gibraltar, 1043/11)

Operation "Ration"

My 0946/9. Force of 4 destroyers will be used, with RENOWN kept at short notice (F.O.C.N.A., to Admty., 1230/11)

Rio de Oro

No suspicious activities. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, to Admty., 1544/11) See U-Boat Campaign)

Italian S/M's Tangier

Your 1550/9 (re Submarines at Tangier) According to official notes to H.M. Ambassador from Minister for Foreign Affairs these submarines are M. BIANCHI and B.BRIN. This confirmed from Spanish Ministry of Marine. (N.A.Madrid 1315/11 to S.O.I., Gib)

Fuel for Norwegian Whale Catchers

Following is text of C.G. New York's 1130/6 to you which you could not decypher: At request of Admty. and as agreed by Jersey Company please arrange with Manager of Tagus Oil Co. deliver about 15/12 maximum 1000 tons of fuel oil to ten ex-Norwegian Whale Catchers on passage to U.K. for requisitioning, asking him to maintain secrecy as to why this supply of oil is required.(ends) Your 1220/7 to C.G. New York was undecypherable by him. (Head of M. 1557/11 to Consul, Ponta Delgada)

/ARK ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

ARK ROYAL
FORMIDABLE

Para 5 A of your 1917/24/11. To enable FORMIDABLE to carry two fighter Squadrons at expence of torpedo spotter reconnaissances on certain operations propose ARK ROYAL disembark Fulmar or Skua Squadron at Gibraltar on being relieved by FORMIDABLE If external long range tanks are applicable to Albacore request these be provided for FORMIDABLE's torpedo spotter R/C A/C. (S.O.Force H., 1924/11 to Admty.)

Intend putting ARK ROYAL at 6 hours notice until a.m./15 to make good defective joints in engine room. Consider this necessary in view of forthcoming operations. (S.O.Force H., 1926/11 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE

To proceed Simonstown for repairs when ITAPE's prisoners have been embarked. (C. in C.,SA 1031Z/11)

utilising

DEVONSHIRE

Request you consider/DEVONSHIRE on her return voyage to U.K. for escorting available homeward bound liners. (D.O.D.(F) 2140/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

ASTURIAS

Your 0920/27 (ASTURIAS taken in hand for urgent repairs) Request ASTURIAS may be sailed for square L. 32 when ready. (R.A.S,A D., 1238Z/11)

Your 1337Z/10 not yet transferred on completion ASTURIAS is to be sailed for L. 32 to join South American Division S.A.Station. Then as ordered by R.A. S.A.D. (C. in C., S.A., 1019Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Whalers

Your 1257/10. (Undesirable that Whalers fuel again within 3 months at Portuguese Port.) Whalers fuelled at Walvis Bay on passage St. Helena to Cape. (C. in C., S.A. 1021W/11 to Admty.)

/Enemy Unit....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Enemy Unit	D/F Bearings at 2250Z/9 indicate probability of German surface unit near 021° 00' N., 031° 00' W. Further bearings at 2117/10 give slight indication unit has moved further south or west. (C. in C., S.A., 1125/11 to R.A.S.A.D.,etc.)
Raider	C. 3. report German Raider after trying to escape to north is now approaching River Plate, she may R.V. a tanker off Argentine Coast. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1624Z/11 to Admty)
Seaward Defence Force S.A.	My 2222/10 para (C) (re enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) of personnel of A/S Ships to be based in Africa) Defence Dept. now definitely contend that Admiralty can by order in Council apply N.D.A. to S.D.F. under visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act, 1933, Section 4, and that enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) is unnecessary. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1235B/11 to Admty.)
Wreckage	Master BENWYVIS reports passing quantity of barrels, loaves of bread and tins between 0900 and 1400/9 in approximately 030° S., and 014° E., and on his course for Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1612B/11 to Admty)
CANTON	Your 1055/10. It is proposed that CANTON should return to Freetown without calling at U.K. unless you particularly wish her to do so. (D.O.D.(F) 1705/11, to C. in C., S.A.)
HIDLEFJORD Suspicious Ship	Your 1131/9 and my 1216/9. Master of HIDLEFJORD has been interrogated. Suspicious vessel passed on nearly opposite course without altering course, five splashes like shots falling reported seen about two miles off when suspicious vessel was abeam, no guns heard or flashes seen. Vessel reported has two masts, 1 funnel amidships, dark hull, coal burner. Consider improbable that this ship was a Raider or fired shots though splashes in water cannot be explained. (C. in C., S.A., 1930/11 to Admty)

/ENGLISH TRADER....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

ENGLISH TRADER

Position of ENGLISH TRADER at 0101/11 was 020° 57' N., 019° 05' W., Ship is being told to give her position to Freetown at 0400/12 unless you have found her by then (C. in C., S.A., 2013N/11 to BRIDGEWATER)

Foreign Legion Movement

Spears Mission London for Admiralty and Ministry of Shipping. After conference with Governor Duala and Colonel Commanding Legion following proposals urgently submitted. (FORT LAMY, CAPO OLMO, TOUAREG, arrangements) (20 M.Mission Duala 1925/11 to W.O.)

Admty. 2353/10. Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos, states CASAMANCE now nearly fully loaded with cargo for U.K. has left with some cargo for Accra and Takoradi and will complete with cargo for U.K. there. Propose she should continue as arranged. If FORT LAMY proposed by N.C.S.O. Duala in his 1819/10/12 not considered suitable suggest CAPO OLMO due Freetown 12/12 proceed to Duala and take M.T. and Stores. Am arranging for troops to be ready by (date) (C. in C., Africa 1945 N/11, to Admty.)

Re movement of French Troops with equipment to Port Sudan, position now as follows:
For Foreign Legion personnel British Transport NEURALIA. CASAMANCE not now available for M.T. etc.,
For French Brigade understood to be about 1600 personnel with full equipment regret no British ships available.
Following French Ships are under consideration subject to your confirmation as to suitability. For personnel and some equipment TOUAREG and CAPO PLMO. For balance of equipment (including replace of CASAMANCE) TOMBOUCTOU, FORT BINGER, INDO-CHINOIS and CHATEAUROUX.
Proposals all subject to escort arrangements which cannot be considered by Admty until information as to availability suitability and speed confirmed. (D.S.T. 2102/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

PROTEUS — To sail for Portsmouth as convenient. (C. in C., Med. to F.O.C.N.A. 1125/11)

RORQUAL — Leave (position) to arrive Alexandria sanctuary (Capt. S.1. 1445/11 to RORQUAL)

Local Defence — Your 1559/18 and 1335/7. Concur to release of 6- in guns from Haifa to Turkey. Further changes. (D. of L.D., to C. in C., Med. 1707/11)

Support to Army Western Desert — My 1635/10. TERROR in Sollum Bay commenced bombardment at 1030/11. Joined by APHIS and LADYBIRD at 1000, harassing enemy's retirement. Strong Westerly wind hampered gunboatd' movements.
3 Destroyers in company. BARHAM and VALIANT under F.O.I.B.S. in close support and will also bombard if suitable targets presented. ULLUSTRIOUS with 3rd C.S. (? in offing) providing fighter protection. (C. in C., Med., 1101/11 to Admty.)

My 1635/10. TERROR, gunboats and 4 destroyers have been bombarding neighbourhood of Sollum during today, harassing enemy's retirement. TERROR now returning all ammunition expended. Gunboats continue harassing fire of Sollum tonight, and then returning Mersa Matruh to fuel from destroyers and re-ammunition.
BARHAM, VALIANT and YORK bombarding Bardia and targets in vicinity at 0800/12 (C. in C., Med. 2225/11 to Admty) Press communique on this, see 12/12.

Proposed communique (C. in C., Med. 2250/11)

Valona Bombed — Operational Summary No 184 up to 1200 hours 11/12. Greece. Day 10/12. 5 Blenheims attacked Valona town and harbour. 1 ship received direct hit on stern. (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E., 1313/11)

/F.A.A. Attack....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterrancan-Contd.

F.A.A. Attack, El Adem, Bardia.

Aircraft of F.A.A. also bombed El Adem. Bombays dropped 6,400 lbs of bombs on retreating enemy troops and M.T. vehicles in the Bardia area. F.A.A. aircraft successfully bombed the barracks at Bardia and the escarpment road between Bardia and Sollum Army forces captured and occupied Maktila Camp and invested Sidi Barrani on 10/12. (H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E. 1316/11)

Greece Degaussing

Your 2101/9. Sufficient information to enable merchant ships to be degaussed was supplied to Greek N.A. in London on 9/4. No objection to later and more detailed information being supplied nor to Greek Officers being trained at Alexandria. Greek ships are now granted D.G. facilities at all British ports, see A.M. 1844/15/11. (D.T.D. 1918/11 to C. in C., Med)

Submarines

454. Consequent on Admiralty 1228/29 it is intended to redispose of 1st S/M Flotilla as follows: (1) 'O' Class 'P' Class 'T' Class and H.M.S. RORQUAL based and operated from Alexandria (2) 'U' Class based at and operated from Malta. (C. in C., Med., 2117/11 to V.A.Malta)

M.N.B.D.O. to sail in W.S. 6.

Following for Cs.in C., from Chiefs of Staff. No 30. It has been agreed that the Royal Marine group of the M.N.B.D.O. will be sent to Middle East in W.S. 6. Decision is dependent on shipping as forecast being available. Details of R.M. group. Total M.N.B.D.O. Officer 248, O.Rs 4911. (W.O. 2215/11 to C. in C., M.E.)

Operations Summary

Operations and movements period 15/11 to 21/11.
F.O.C. 1 B.S. in BARHAM with VALIANT and EAGLE and 7 destroyers left Alexandria 16/11 for Suda Bay to cover following movements returning 19/11. Fast convoy 5 ships 3 C.S. and SYDNEY left Alexandria 15/11 arrived Piraeus 16/11 with 3400 R.A.F. and Army Base personnel and stores, 1700 men being embarked in cruisers. 3 C.S. returned to Alexandria 17/11 except YORK

/who embarked...

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations Summary-Contd

who embarked one Battalion Black Watch at Port Said 18/11 disembarking them at Suda Bay 19/11 when returning to Alexandria YORK was unsuccessfully attacked by 3 T.B. aircraft at 1025/19 when 40 miles N.E. of Suda Bay. Convoy A.N. 7. of 8 ships left Alexandria and Port Said 15/11 arrived Piraeus 19/11. One M.T. ship left Port Said 19/11 arrived Piraeus 21/11.

V.A.L.F. in ORION with AJAX took general charge of these operations visiting Piraeus and returning to Alexandria 20/11. 4 destroyers carried out A/S operation from Piraeus to Kissamo Bay and North Coast of Crete 17/11. Greek troop movements in Aegean also took place under cover of those operations.

(2) Operation and movement 22/11 to 30/11. Operation M.B. 9 as reported in My 1307/29/11 and my 1657/2/12. Following additional convoy movements took place under cover of operation M.B.9 A.S. 7 8 ships left Piraeus 27/11 arrived Port Said 30/11.

(3) Operations 1/12 to 8/12.
3 C.S. based at Suda Bay to cover following movements. MANCHESTER leaving Suda Bay 3/12 for Malta. Convoys A.N. 8 5 ships leaving Port Said and Alexandria 2/12 A.S. 6 9 ships leaving Piraeus 4/12 A.N. 9 3 ships leaving Port Said 5/12. YORK proceeded in company MANCHESTER until dark 3/12 then returning to Suda Bay. GLASGOW hit with 2 torpedoes from 2 S 79 K aircraft in Suda Bay at 1540/3 reported in my 2205/3. GLOUCESTER escorted GLASGOW on passage to Alexandria until 1800/4. GLASGOW made good 16 knots arriving Alexandria 5/12. 3 C.S. then covered Aegean convoy returning to Alexandria 7/12. At 0837/6 and 0953/6 2 S 79 K torpedo bombers approached 3 C.S. in position 035° 45' N. 025° 20' E., retiring on both occasions when fire was opened at long range. V.A.L.F. with 7 C.S. left Alexandria 7/12 to cover convoy and to sail for Piraeus. 3 Swordfish disembarked to Heraklion carried out attack and diversion on Stampalia, Piscopi, Niscopi, Niseres and Kost on 1/12. (C. in C., Med. 1015/11 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

E. 5 10.	3 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escort for Convoy B.S. 10 (Air H.Q. Aden 2330/10)
Mines	A.C.N.B.'s 1122/10 (re mining of SILKWORTH) Similar action taken on E.I. Station. (C. in C., E.I., 0530Z/11 to Admty)
YAMAYURI MARU to be Intercepted	Japanese ship YAMAYURI MARU was at Kismayu on 10/10. If met at sea she is to be taken or sent under armed guard into convenient British Port for examination but see my C824+ 25/10+(? 0812Z/25/10 intended giving danger zones in which shipping navigate at their own cost.) (Description) (C. in C., E.I., 0614Z/11)
SS QUEEN ELIZABETH	British Ship QUEEN ELIZABETH has not arrived Trincomalee and is probably proceeding direct to Singapore as I advised her by W/T to do so if her fuel permitted My signal required a reply but none has been received. (C. in C., E.I., 0630Z/11 to Admty.)
GLIMMAREN	Admty. 1351/11/10. Suspected of carrying contraband. (C. in C., E.I., 0650Z/11 to Admty.)
Kismayu Bombardment SOUTHAMPTON	My 2020/10 Air Report. Inaccurate anti-aircraft fire encountered. No enemy aircraft seen. SOUTHAMPTON's fire observed but fading light and distance of aircraft prevented observation of result. All aircraft consisting 4 Hurricanes and one Glen Martin returned safely. (C. in C., E.I., 1006Z/11 to Admty.etc.)
	My 1513/7. List of ships present in Kismayu. (C. in C., E.I., 1120Z/11 to Admty.)

/Troop Transports...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Troop Transports

Your 1722/9. The ships which have been released are most suitable for Indian troops but not for British. Very few have refrigerators, and none are capable of the endurance required by you at present working on Indian requirements and the U.S.Convoys running every six weeks. All available ships now at my disposal are required. DUNERA now en route Suez and NIEUW HOLLAND acting as hospital ship Durban are the only ships which could be spared and have the endurance and speed required. (P.S.T.O. India 1234/11 to D.S.T.)

U.S. 7.

Departure KINGSTON to join U.S. 7 at 1730Z/11. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1734Z/11)

China

Raider

Additional information. Repetition of his 1607Z/10. (C. in C., China, 0557/Z/11) Further, no gun mounted aft. (C. in C., China, 1039Z/11)

Tankers

Your 0551/1/11. Please confirm you have taken tankers 1 to 5 and report dates of sailing from Shanghai. (Min of Shipping 1721/11 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

NIAGARA
ST CLAIR

Your 1400/10. (p.c. and e.t.a. of NIAGARA) Is ST CLAIR in company? (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, to NIAGARA, 1914/11)

My 2236/10. NIAGARA now located. ST CROIX reported hove to in approx. position 420 miles 070° from Cape Nova Scotia at 0415/11 ST. CLAIR still unaccounted for. Endeavour to locate and escort ST. CROIX towards St. John's N.F. subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A. 3. N.S. to MONTCLARE 0916/11)

Your 1201/11 (not to F.O. 3 B.S.) Message 0705/11 originated from NIAGARA as agreeing with N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Position of ST.CLAIR not yet known. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1401/11 to ST. CROIX)

/Discontinue .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

American & West Indies

NIAGARA ST CLAIR- Contd.	Discontinue search. Return to base. (F.O. 3. B.S. 1952/11 to AURANIA, MONTCLARE) Your 1306/8. Expect to arrive in this area at 0800 G.M.T. 12/12. (AURANIA to R.A. 3 B.S. 2030/11) Your 2030/11. Continue searching area until dark 12/12 and then return Halifax. (F.O.3. B.S. to AURANIA, 1816/11)
IDARWALD	DIOMEDE firing incident (C. in C., A.W.I. 1024/11) See German Merchant Ships.
DIOMEDE	Arrived Kingston. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1500/11)
ROCKINGHAM ROXBURGH	Cancel my 1 09/7. Both ships developed defects on passage to St. John's N.F. (R.A. 3 B.S. to Admty. 1029/11)
REVENGE	Arrived Halifax. 11/12. (S.O.I.Halifax 1609/11)
Intelligence Jamaica	Proposals to coordinate intelligance in Jamaica area, as counter action to highly organised enemy system. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1511/11 to Admty.)
Contraband and Security	Situation in Trinidad and Jamaica with regard to examination of passengers and cargo in transit very unsatisfactory. Proposals C. in C., A.W.I., 1501/11 to Admty.)
ARACATA Overdue	5378 tons, 13 knots, sailed for Jamaica 16/11 and is overdue at Liverpool since 1/12. This is the fourth boat to disappear on this run. (D.S. 464)
AUSONIA Collision	AUSONIA collided with BELTINGE on 5/12 due to parting of tow to after tug when berthed alongside. AUSONIA undamaged. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1655/11)
RHEIN	Intercepted and sunk. (See German Merchant Ships)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Raiders, Convoys in preference to hunting

Whilst likely scale of attack remains A.M.C. in Indian and Pacific Oceans it is considered shore-based aircraft provide reasonable measure of protection in coastal waters. It has been decided therefore that surface forces can be released to operate on ocean trade routes to which the enemy appears to be confining his attacks. As hunting offers little prospects of success it is proposed to employ these forces escorting as many ships as can be got together without imposing a long delay on shipping. Besides protection to ships escorted the consequent reduction on trade routes will reduce risk to unescorted ships. Ships escorted will be spread about twice visibility distance apart by day with object of locating enemy raider. Anticipated these modified convoys will not be greater than four or five ships. Request your views and whether you consider a concerted effort can be made on these lines in Indian Ocean. Similar arrangements are being discussed with N.Z.N.B. for Tasman Sea. (A.C.N.B. 0830Z/11 to C. in C's E.I., China, S.A.)

New Zealand

Oil Stock, Suva

My 0614Z/29. Governor, Suva, reports oil stock at Suva after departure of PINNA as follows:- No known probable dates or means of replenishment. Depth of water does not permit the use of Gold mine reserve pier by ACHILLES or MONOWAI. Estimated monthly consumption by New Zealand Naval units for routine visits escorting troop carrying vessels 600 tons. This does not include fuel required for raider searches which are becoming more frequent. (N.Z.N.B. 0501Z/11 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BRAKE — Sailed from Vigo 0600 today. (Consul, Vigo, 1055/11, V.A.S. 1406/11, D.D.I.C. 1421/11)

RHEIN Intercepted — RHEIN intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN N.W. of Key West and has set herself on fire. Not yet known whether ship can be saved. (C. in C., A.W.I., to Admty. 0442/11) My 0442 VAN KINSBERGEN reports unable to extinguish fire in RHEIN. Ship has been sunk by gunfire from CARADOC. 43 prisoners on board CARADOC being taken Jamaica. VAN KINSBERGEN reports 1 German seaman killed owing to disobeying orders. Position when intercepted 24.55 N., 83.15 W. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152/11)

CORDELIA }
ARKADIA } — Arrived. (Macrae, Galatz 1012/11)

ATLAS — Arrival 10/12 (Valencia, T.H.I. 0504/11)

BABITONGA — N.A. Rio's 1730/10. Subject to compliance with my 1226/10 you are at liberty to move into K.32. (R.A.S.A.D., 1033/11 to AMBERLAND)

PORTLAND — My 1834/30/11 (no trace in W.R.) Following from Navy Dept. PORTLAND arrived Falcahuano 4/10. (N.A. Washington 1625/6, received by cable 1038/11)

MADRID — Left Las Palmas proceeding north at 1900/11 Had recently taken in 1300 tons coal and is believed to have general cargo on board. (Las Palmas 1930/11, F.O.C.N.A., 0825/12, D.S. 464)

IDARWALD. Firing Incident — My C033/9 (refers to 2131/8 re DIOMEDE, enquiry will be held) Investigation shows that Gunlayer of after Lewis Gun heard a confused shout from irresponsible spectators who were unaware that after gun was not affected by orders given to foremost gun, to effect "When is after machine gun going to open fire" In the heat of the moment he mistook it for an order to open fire which had not been given. Am recommending to C.O. he should take very moderate disciplinary action. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1024/11 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ROTORUA

British, 10,890 tons. (In H.X. 92, Commodore Fitzgerald) S/M distress, 58.56N 11.20 W., ROTORUA attacked by submarine (ROTORUA, 1400/11) Following rend. (position) ROTORUA torpedoed 1300 de MLSN 1339/11 (Lyness, 1440/11) Crew of ROTORUA not yet rescued, (CARDITA 1441/11) If not in contact with part of H.X. 92, proceed to position given by ROTORUA (C. in C., W.A., to VETERAN 1516/11) My 1516. If in company part of H.X. 92, detach one destroyer to hunt and assist ROTORUA (C. in C., W.A. to VETERAN, 1618/11)

Request you will sail Tug BRIGAND to assistance of SS ROTORUA torpedoed at 1300 today in position 58° 56' N., 11° 20' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1520/11 to A.C.O.S.)

In view of your 2158/11 cancel my 1520/11 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0015/12 to TRELAWNEY)

My 2235/10. Fleet Tug BRIGAND sailed Port Z.A. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0914/11 to TRELAWNEY)

Keep well clear of position of ROTORUA torpedoed in position 058° 56' N., 011° 20' W., at 1400. (C. in C., W.A., 1554/11 to BROKE)

CARDITA

British tanker, 8237 tons. In convoy H.X. 92. S/M distress, 58.56 N., 11.20 W CARDITA attacked by submarine. (Lyness, T.O.R. 1505/11) No damage to CARDITA reported and she opened fire on enemy and claims direct hit on conning tower. (See S/M's attacked)

TOWA

Dutch 5419 tons. Torpedoed 58.49 N., 10.09W at 1900/11. Survivors picked up by MATABELE (See 12/12)

/In the.....

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

In the cases of the following ships which were torpedoed as shown such search as has been possible has failed to locate either ships or survivors. Request any further information:-

LADY GLANELY	0415/2. 55.00 N., 22.00 W.
VICTOR ROSS	0957/2. 56.04 N., 18.30 W.,
PARMSUM	2147/2. 52.11 N., 22.56 W.,
CALABRIA	2008/8. 52.43 N., 18.07 W.,
EMPIRE JAGUAR	2039/9. 51.34 N., 17.35 W.,
	(C. in C., W.A., 2350/1 to Admty.)

H.X. 92 — Following are survivors recovered, VETERAN 2, WOLVERINE 6. Further unknown by 2 trawlers EBOR WYKE and 1 other. Your 2034. Proceeded with WOLVERINE to overtake H.X. 92 and escort B portion to Liverpool. CHELSEA joins me en route 056° 30' N., 008° 00' W. (VETERAN, 2319/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Submarines Reported

2320/10	D.F. probable U-Boat, unreliable fix, 50.50N 07.10 W., (V.A.S. to S/M's Area B. 0119/11)
1209	D.F. probable U-Boat, in area 50' radius from 58.30 N., 11.00 W., (D.D.I.C. 1254/11) (Capt S. 9. to L.23, 1609/11) Cancel my 1609 (Capt S.9. 1717/11)
1400	A.F. message, 58.56 N., 11.20 W., at 1300/12 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1523/11)
0636Z/10	D.F. bearings at 0636Z/10 indicate U-Boats operating Cape Verde Is. are probably to south westward. (C. in C., S.A., to KENT, etc., 1320/11)
2007	W. of Ireland, E. of 15° W., very indefinite (D.S. 464)
1553	S.W. of Ireland, about 50' N., indefinte (Italian)(D.S. 464)
1752	53°-54° N., 18°-20° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 464)
1741	49°-50° N., 17°-19° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 464)
2008	About 53° N., 15° - 20° W., indefinite (German) (D.S. 464)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

? — Your 0855/11. If contact has not been made return to Ardrossan. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1247/11 to PRUDENT)

Rio de Oro — My 1612/22/11 (Investigate report Rio de Oro or Canary Is. used by Italian U-Boats) and my 1558/27/11 (Report re Canary Is. Strongly doubted) Consul Teneriffe reports C. 1. that there are no suspicious activities on the coast of Rio de Oro (S.O.I. Gib, 1544/11 to Admty.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — Italian- No further information from Azores area.
1 may arrive Gironde during the night.
1 was in about 53° 25' N.,19° 30' W., at 1950/10.
1 outward bound possibly vicinity Porcupine Bank.
1 may be homeward bound off S.W. Ireland.

German- Situation remains obscure.
1 should arrive Lorient tonight.
1 may be S.W. of Ireland bound for Lorient
1 possibly 52° to 54° N., about 20° W.
1 may be N.W. Rockall.
1 was in 50° 50' N., 7° 10' W., at 2320/10 (D.D.I.C. 1216/11)

Submarines Attacked

1418 — Direct on submarine, volume oil in air (CARDITA, 1418/11) See Ships Attacked

Detach portion of escort to deal with S/M reported hit by CARDITA in 58.56 N., 11.20 W. Aircraft cooperating. (C. in C., W.A., 1658/11 to BROKE)

Your 1658. SALADIN, SARDONYX anti- S/M out of action.
Consider reduction escort not justifiable. p.c. and s. Weather. (BROKE 1832/11)
No further information of enemy movements since CARDITA reported direct hit on U-Boat (C. in C., W.A., 1950/11 to VETERAN)

/CARDITA.....

(5)

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary

12.12.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy.

Northern Patrol. R.A. N.P. 1092/N P 3000 dated 29th November. I fully endorse my predecessor's view that it is important to maintain ten trawlers on patrol to cover Iceland Faeroes passage.

Request that until the number of Northern Patrol Trawlers can be augmented the four Kingston class trawlers may be exchanged with vessels more suitable for the strenuous conditions of this service.
(C. in C. H.F. 1412/12 to Adty).

T.B's G.13 and G.15. Dutch Torpedo boats G13 and G15 are suitable for use as H.D.P.V's Belfast. Request that may be so allocated.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1621/12 to Adty.)

Destroyers for Mediterranean. My 2250/6. Two destroyers of the 5th D.F. are required for an Operation in the Mediterranean and to remain there temporarily. One of these is to be JAGUAR. The other should be one of the two destroyers detailed in accordance with para.7 of my 2250/6. The second of these latter may return home from R/V. (1st S.L. 2157/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 2250/6. Two Tribal class destroyers are required for an Operation in the Mediterranean and to remain there on completion of this operation. Request they be sailed with W.S. 5(a). They may form part of the escort for FORMIDABLE.
(1st S.L. 2200/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/12. (D.C.1150/12) At 2330/12 (S.C. 2330/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LINCOLN. Sailed Milford Haven 1630/11. E.T.A.Scapa 0920/13. (C. in C. W.A. 0048/12).

WRESTLER. E.T.A. Falmouth 0930/12. (C. in C. W.A. 0930/12 to H.Q.F.C.) Not to be sailed for Portsmouth until P.M./13. (C. in C. W.A. 1312/12 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth). Sailed (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1734/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Arrived SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, BRILLIANT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0752/12).
C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/11. Request passage be arranged so that E.T.A. May Island may be 1100/15 and Besmer Rock 1330/15. (C. in C. Rosyth 1236/12 to Adty).
My 2223/10. Operation will be carried out tonight. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1454/12 to Adty).
My 1723/10 and 1817/11. Sailed at 1600. E.T.A. as by C. in C. H.F. 1301/10 plus 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1617/12 to Adty).
My 2223/10. For Lizard read Start. Delete M.A/S.B. 59, 52, and 56. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1624/12).
QUEEN ELIZABETH proceeding to Rosyth screened by SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, BRILLIANT, and PYTCHLEY, is to pass through 90° Tiumpan Head 13 miles at 1630/14., and to pass May Island at 1100/15.
NIGERIA and CURACOA to meet QUEEN ELIZABETH in above position.
NIGERIA to provide close escort against surface attack as far as May Island thence returning to Scapa. CURACOA to provide A/A escort to Rosyth and then to proceed as ordered by R.A.(D) Home Fleet.
Except for mark M Pom-Pom QUEEN ELIZABETH is unarmed.
Air escort has been arranged on passing Cape Wrath until arrival at Rosyth.
(C. in C. H.F. 1747/12 to NIGERIA).
Weather permitting, one Hudson or Sunderland with A.S.V. will escort you from 2200/12 to dawn/13. (C. in C. W.A. 1812/12 to QUEEN ELIZABETH).
Sailed SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, PYTCHLEY, and BRILLIANT as by R.A.D's 2156/11.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1850/12 and 0753/13).
Pass through Nymphebank minefield by QZF.18 entering channel West of 7° West. 5th D.F. to run T.S.D.S. in channel.
Estimate that R.V. with H.F. destroyers will be at 1600/13.

.....U-boat

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1940
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (Contd:)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. (contd:) — U-boat reported by aircraft in 50° 26' N. 05° 20' W. at 1507/12 being hunted by LE TRIOMPHANT, JERSEY, WRESTLER, and MONTGOMERY.
Weather permitting a section of Blenheim fighters will escort you from 0800/13 when it is estimated your position will be 50° 58' N. 06° 45' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1950/12 to QUEEN ELIZABETH)

ANTELOPE. — 11/12 entered, fuelled, sailed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1017/12).

FURIOUS, DIDO, KELVIN, BRADFORD, COSSACK, SIKH. — My 1800/8. KELVIN BRADFORD escort FURIOUS to Liverpool thence KELVIN to Plymouth BRADFORD to Londonderry. ECLIPSE escort DIDO to Scapa. Remaining destroyers escort convoy to Clyde thence COSSACK SIKH as ordered by C. in C. Home Fleet.
(C. in C. W.A. 1134/12 to RAMILLIES).

KENYA. — Arrived 1108. (C. in C. W.A.1145/12).

SHEARWATER. — Sailed 1437/12. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1439/12).

FORMIDABLE, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, VIMY — Arrived Scapa 1448. (A.C.O.S.1535/12).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/12).

SHELDRAKE. — Arrived 1538. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1541/12).

EGLINTON, WORCESTER — Sailed 1700/12.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1702/12).

AMBUSCADE. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1903/12).

EDINBURGH. — Arrived Scapa 2147. (A.C.O.S.2235/12).

BEVERLEY. — Sailed. E.T.A. Bar Ship 0900/13. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2331/12).

M.T.B's 104 and 107. — To be sent Greenock to arrive by P.M./17 at latest for service abroad with D.C.O. (V.C.N.S. 2212/12 to C. in C. Nore).

Operations.

Iceland. — WOLFE and CHITRAL. Routes to Reykjavik. (F.O.C.N.P.1000/12).

Proposed Operation. — Adty. 1734/10. Re supplies and equipment available. (F.O. Iceland 1620/12).

.....Operation F.V.1.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd:)

Operation P.V.1. Will be carried out tonight from 2000 to 2200. (C. in C. Nore 1028/12 and 1245/12). Operation cancelled tonight owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 1913/12).

Operation P.Y.A.
1. Following operation to be known as P.Y.A. will be carried out when ordered by F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, and under his orders.
2. Two or more M/Ls to patrol during dark hours between 52° 22' and 52° 52' North on a line not less than 5 miles eastward of swept channel keeping to southeastward of the F.N. and F.S. convoys.
3. When P.Y.A. is ordered A/P patrol F.W.P. will be withdrawn and will re-inforce patrol F.W.U.
4. On nights when P.V. one is ordered P.Y.A. will not be carried out.
(C. in C. Nore 1242/12).

Submarines.

PROTEUS. Route to Portsmouth. (V.A.S.0056/12).

Bombing Restrictions. My 0056/12. Particulars. (V.A.S.0058/12 to PROTEUS).

TAKU / TUNA. TAKU arrived. TUNA sailed escorted by WHITE BEAR as by S.2.1656/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0957/12).

URGE. Arrived escorted by TROUBADOUR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0950/12).

THUNDERBOLT. Leave Patrol after dark 15/12. Route. (S.2. 0958/12).

TRIBUNE / THUNDERBOLT. My 0956/12 and 0958/12. Routes and orders. (S.2. 1001/12).

UPHOLDER / UNIQUE / USK. My 1607/11. Should read E.T.A. Position E. UPHOLDER 0700/17, UNIQUE 1200/18, USK 0700/18 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1107/12).

SEVERN. Your 1219/26. Intend sailing P.M./14. (C. in C. W.A. 1323/12 to V.A.S.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/13. (V.A.S.1539/12).

Sanctuary. My 1418/2. Extend use of Sanctuary to P.M./13 (Capt.D. Londonderry 2300/12 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

East Coast Patrol. Fighter Patrol of 2 Blenheims from Dyce 0830 to Flamborough, returning about 1200/12. (C. in C. Rosyth 0746/12).

Patrols. My 2244/30/11. HORNLI being flown A.M. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0754/12).
HORNLI cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1102/12).

CENTO Patrol. My 1300/7. A/S Patrol along 100 fathom line between 62° 5' N. 3° 30' W. and 62° 30' N. 5° 30' W. will be flown occasionally as an alternative to MUSSY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1212/12).

FRIESENLANDT at Brest. A.P.660 12/12. Available aircraft of Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to attack tonight aircraft supply ship FRIESENLANDT in dry dock at Eastern End of Grand Bassin De Nord 'Est at Brest. Alternative target power station and docks.
(H.Q.C.C. 1045/12).

Bordeaux. A.P.661 12/12. Available aircraft of No.22 Squadron to attack tonight 12th/13th December submarine targets in No.1 Basin at Bordeaux with Magnums.
(H.Q.C.C. 1047/12).

A/S. Patrols. Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A/S patrols. One surface recco to west. 2 surface reccos to the east. Area covered 0100 west to 0530 west.
(200 Group 1701/12 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.58. Aircraft bombing in 51° 53' N. 1° 7' E. (LONDONDERRY 1056/12). 2 Bombs, no hits. Aircraft damaged by gunfire. (LONDONDERRY 1057/12).

JOHN ALFRED. EVENING PRIMROSE. H.K.1. Drifter JOHN ALFRED was attacked by aircraft at 1530/11. 1 near miss caused damage to hull, extent not yet ascertained. Vessel towed to Brightlingsea and awaiting slip. Drifter EVENING PRIMROSE and H.K.1 patrol report having been attacked by aircraft at 1055/12. A.A. weapons were successful aircraft disappeared Southward in flames.
(C. in C. Nore 1547/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation B.S.47. Intend sail from Spurn Point 1345/14, depart 21.D. Buoy at 1000/15, begin lay 1215/15, returning 21.D.Buoy. (50 M/L.Immingham 1007/12).

Sheerness. BERNARD SHAW reports one Red Mine detonated by L.L. at 1952/11 in 225° B.4. Buoy 1.8 miles. (Capt.M/S. Sheerness 1136/12).

Dover Area. Routine sweeps to 0800/12. 2 Mines about 168° South Foreland 2½ miles and 5 Explosive Cutters. (V.A. Dover 1253/12).

Operation Z.M.E. 6. To be carried out on 14/12 or as soon after as possible. 7 miles in direction 119° from 51° 10' N. 5° 36' W. (V.C.W.S.1312/12 to C. in C. W.A.,ADVENTURE).

Sweep of 117 Q.Z.S. Weather permitting intend sailing 5 fleet sweepers S.O. NIGER at dusk tomorrow Friday to carry out searching sweep of 117 Q.Z.S. Commencing sweep at South Falls 51° 19.5' N. 01° 43' E. at 0400/14 arriving position X at 0800/14. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1613/12).

Humber. Closed. Suspected aircraft minelaying. (F.O. Humber 2307/12).

Enemy Intelligence.

GNEISENAU. Reported at Kiel 3/12. Graded C.2. (D.D.I.C. 1753/12).

Brest. FRIESENLAND has now left since 8/12. M/V. 540 feet now in Grand Bassin Dry Dock. (P.I.U.2124/12).

Ice Report. N.A. Stockholm 1445/12.

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE ELK. Proceed to assist in 55° 56' N. 10° 12' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1608/12 and 2357/12 to PRUDENT).

NIKOKLIS. Your 2316/11 and my 2337/11. Request you sail Tug SCHELDE with A/S Trawler Escort to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0129/12 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

MONTGOMERY. Arrived with oil-cooler defects. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2332/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated position 0900/12 (D.T.D.1154/12 to C. in C. H.F.).

H.X.93. Meet. 29 ships unescorted. Position and route.(C. in C. W.A. 1142/12, 1442/12 to ANTELOPE, ACTIVE, ACHATES, PICOTEE, HEATHER).

H.G.47. Has arrived. 30 ships, 19 British, 8 Allied, 3 Neutral. (D.S.464).

E.N.40. KING SOL and ARAB, additional escorts FLEETWOOD, WATCHMAN.(N.C.S.O. Methil 2325/12).

H.X.97. WORCESTERSHIRE may be required to meet H.X.97 sailing from Halifax 18/12 and not S.C.16. Change desirable owing to more Southerly routes of convoys. (D.T.D.1618/12).

W.N.54. Code "Chitty". Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 6 ships (N.C.S.O.Greenock 1034/12).

F.S.58. Arrived, all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1929/12).

S.L.58. Route. (V.A.N.P.1810/12).

F.N.56. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2356/12).

O.B.258. Clyde portion including Commodore prevented from sailing, fog. Master of SCOTTISH PRINCE to be appointed Commodore. (C. in C. W.A. 2014/12).

F.S.59. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/12).

F.N.56. Arrived.(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1706/12).

S.C.15. Amended route. (D.T.D. 1848/12 to CILICIA).

B.H.X.96. Departure, ocean escort ALAUNIA. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1143/12).

E.N.39.
W.N.52. W.N.52 expected to pass Dunnet Head about 0915/12. Do not enter Pentland Firth with E.N.39 till W.N. 52 is clear. Submarine L.23 escorted by THIRLMERE passes Noss Head 0845 bound for Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0104/12 to ULLSWATER).

E.N.39. Departures at 0145/12 RICHMOND HILL escorted by WINDERMERE to rendezvous E.N.39 off Duncansby Head at 1000/12 after which WINDERMERE proceeds direct to Aberdeen. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0150/12 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys(Contd:)
S.L.56.

Estimated position from Aircraft of A Portion of S.L.56 at 0001/12 is 055° 50' N. 009° 00' W. steering 100°. Estimated position of BURNHAM in company 2 ships at 0001/12 is 055° 55' N. 012° 10' W. Course 090°, speed 8½ knots. Position of remainder of Convoy is uncertain. Aircraft is assisting to locate.
(C. in C. W.A.0158/12 to HIGHLANDER, VENOMOUS, AMBUSCADE).

F.S.58.

Harwich December 12th. FRANKLIN at 0847 to join F.S.58 for Sheerness, e.t.a. 1600.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0928/12).

O.B.C.259.

CAVINA and MARON leave Clyde p.m./14 in convoy O.B.C.259 for areas P.3 and Q.3 respectively (route).
(F.O.C.N.P.0950/12 to Western Patrol).

O.B.O.258.

Expect to sail O.B.258. 0145/13/12 escort VANQUISHER 7 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1000/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.B.O.258.
O.B.C.258.

Sailed VANQUISHER for Oban for O.B.O.258 and HIBISCUS for Clyde for O.B.C. 258.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1112/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.B.C.258.

Held up by weather. Proceed to rendezvous with Liverpool portion in accordance with previous orders.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1824/12 to HIBISCUS).

E.N.40.

My 1551/11. Add to para.(b) extra additional escort WATCHMAN.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1007/12).

5 M.V's.

Intend to sail group of 5 M/V's and H.M.S. NORTHWIND escorted by French MELPOMENE and A/S trawlers St.CATHAN and LORD STONEHAVEN from Needles at 1715 for Dartmouth. E.T.A. 0815/13.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1117/12).

F.N.57.

Humber 12/12 departure A/S.M/S.Trawler OPHELIA at 0730 to join F.N.57 for Methil for onward routeing to Tobermory.
(F.O.Humber 1120/12).

S.L.56.

Have not made contact S.L.56. Have searched 012° West and back. Proceeding as indicated by Capt.D. Request further information.
(AMBUSCADE 1202/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.16.

Due to sail 1100/15. Request information as to whether escort available.
(C.O.A.S. Halifax 1232/12 to Admty.etc.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).
S.C. 14.
O.B. 256.

S.C. 14 22 Ships. Position and route of S.C. 14 uncertain. Leave O.B. 256 in time to arrive 59° 40' N 13° 00'W by daylight tomorrow. Pending further information sweep towards North Channel Report if nothing met by 1200 tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1240/12, to BROKE, SALADIN, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE).

O.B. 256.

Cancel my 1240/12. Remain with O.B. 256 until limit of endurance returning to Londonderry at economical speed. (C. in C. W.A. 1702/12 to BROKE etc).

Your 1702 received too late. Escort returning to Londonderry in 3 sections (A) BROKE, ST. ZENO, VIMALMA (B) SALADIN, SARDONYX (C) LA MALOUINE, ST KENAN. (BROKE 1845/12 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.C. 14.

Your 1125/12 to C. in C. W.A. only. Ascertain from HARBERTON and report details as to position in which she left S.C.14 and by which route ships of that convoy are proceeding. (C. in C. W.A. 1324/12 to BURNHAM).

Your 1324/12. HARBERTON reports she lost convoy in 055° N 032° W. 6 ships then in company with Commodore.(route). (BURNHAM, 1527/12).

S.C. 14 meet. (list). (C. in C. W.A. 1432/12, to BROKE, SALADIN, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE).

Leave HARBERTON and proceed forthwith to search for S.C. 14, 21 ships, Commodore Master of ATHENIC (position). (C. in C. W.A. 1914/12 to VENOMOUS).

O.G. 47.

S.C. 14 whose position is uncertain may be met during night passing to the southward. (C. in C. W.A. 1232/12, to LEITH, WILD SWAN, CAMPANULA, PERIWINKLE, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA, PEGASUS).

My position at 1600 056° 20'N 013° 20'W. Hove to missed Convoy gale night 10th - 11th. Request instructions. (GARDENIA, 1441/12, to C. in C. W.A. repeated LEITH)

O.G. 47.
S.C. 14.

Your 1441/12. If you cannot rejoin O.G. 47 proceed to search for S.C. 14 estimated to be approaching from 055° 20'N 015° 00'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1938/12 to GARDENIA).

/S.C. 14 .....

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

S.C. 14 not met. Am proceeding to N.P. 42. (SALOPIAN, 2315/12, to Admty etc.)

H.X. 96.

Intend sailing RANPURA as ocean escort for H.X. 96 subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A.3.B.S. 1602/12).

F.S. 59.

On completion of patrol 'G' tomorrow EGLINTON is to proceed to vicinity of Outer Dowsing and re-inforce escort of F.S. 59. EGRET is to be S.O. of escort (C. in C. Nore 1704/12 to D.16 etc.)

W.N. 53.
W.N. 54.

W/1121/10 and W/1034/12 Retard sailing 25 hours. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1729/12).

H.X. 90.
(attacked 2/12)

Your 2000/10 Re war vessel passing under the stern EMPIRE PUMA - HX 90).

S.C. Convoys.
Naval Commodore

It is considered essential that a Naval Commodore and Staff should embark in charge of SC convoys. If there is no suitable ship available, a ship of the slower type which would normally have sailed in HX Convoy should be detailed. (D. T.D. 1158/12 to C.O.A.C Halifax)

S.L. 58.
SUYDERBURG.

Convoy S.L. slow 58 reports that Dutch ship SUYDERBURG No. 22 broke Convoy after passing Fairway buoy on leaving Freetown on Dec. 7th, dropped astern and was last seen steering 310° Convoy speed 7.5. knots. H.M.S. SPANIARD and H.M.S. KELT, escorting vessels, did not sight ship on return passage to Freetown. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1353/12).

Mine Barrier.

Troop Convoys.
W.S. 5A.

Admty. 1200/5 MAHSEER sailed Greenock 0000/14. (N.O.I.C. Newport Mon, 1500/12 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).

LEOPOLDVILLE speed 15 knots carrying 1584 service personnel, ready to sail from Clyde to Halifax on 13/12, should be included in Convoy W.S. 5 (A). Slow and remain in convoy to 25°W. whence routed independently to destination. Route both sections (D.T.D. 1709/12 to C. in C. W.A. etc).

EMPIRE ABILITY left Clyde p.m./7 for Freetown, unescorted, speed 13 knots, routed inside Azores and Cape Verde Islands. In view of her special cargo she is to be held at Freetown for onward passage to Middle East in Convoy W.S. 5A, 1852/12 to C. in C. S.A.).

/W.S. 5B.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).
W.S. 5B.

My 2219/26/11 Proposed to include following Naval, Military and R.A.F. drafts in Convoy W.S. 5B. (A) 6,700 Personnel in 3 ships for India. (B) 3,500 Personnel in 3 ships for Malaya To facilitate embarkation arrangements, War Office request early information as to route these vessels will follow after Durban. (D.O.D.(F) 1836/12 to C. in C. E.I.).

FURIOUS.
LEOPOLDVILLE.

My 2250/6. FURIOUS will sail in fast group from Liverpool to Freetown. LEOPOLDVILLE speed 14 knots carrying personnel will sail from Clyde in slow group, breading off to Halifax from R/V (X). CAIRO and A/A Sloop should return from R/V (X). FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK should join convoy in R/V (X). 2204/12.) (D.O.D. (H)).

SATURNUS.

Swedish Authorities inform me that SATURNUS which left Ambrose Light New York 0630 G.M.T./11 was given sealed orders stating on no account was she to signal position. Captain of SATURNUS reports he is now (? ordered) to signal position to British Admiralty every four hours and he asks for Official Communication. Request SATURNUS be informed your wishes which should be repeated to me for information to local authorities. (N.A. Stockholm 1054/12 to Admty).

Mine Warning.

Admiralty Message D.T. Attention of Masters is called to Defence of Merchant Shipping Part One Article 222. Mines may be encountered anywhere in the world. Commodores of convoy will issue instructions regarding the use of paravanes by ships in convoy. (D.T.D. 1153/12 to G.B.M.S. All areas.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

COMPIEGNE.

My 1524/11. COMPIEGNE left at 0630/12. Reported French destroyer awaiting as convoy. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon to F.O.C.N.A. 1159/12).

North Atlantic.

SHEFFIELD.

My position and route to Gib. E.T.A. 0815. Sweeping for MADRID on passage. (SHEFFIELD 1800/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Italian Submarines Tangier.

My 1550/9 and N.A.Madrid no T.O.O./11. Now confirms that second Italian U/Boat is M.BIANCHI and not FAA DI BRUNO. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1102/12).

Details of repairs, reported both need to be placed in dry dock. Morale of crews stated to be bad. No shore leave for ratings given since last week. (Consul General Tangier, 0119/12).

South Atlantic.

Raider Reports.

Following read from ANGLO-CANADIAN. Disguised merchant raider 7.30N., 14.30 W Suspisious fast vessel following, we steering 090° at 0820 G.M.T. (Freetown W/T 0835/12). Ref: message 0820 G.M.T. (contained in Freetown 0835) suspicious vessel now out of sight, have not been challenged, description impossible due to haze. (ANGLO-CANADIAN, 1048/12).

My 1125/11. Indication that this unit may have been at any point between Equator 20° W., and 15° N(?) 31 W at 1818Z/11. (C.in C. S.A. 1153N/12). Your 1153N/12. On what evidence is this signal based?. (D.D.I.C. 2213/12) Your 2213/12. My 1047/12 refers. (C.in C. S.A. to D.N.I. 1014/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Seaward Defence Force S.A.	Your 1235B/11 agreed. Necessary action will be taken. (Hd. of N.L. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1202/12).
W.S.4.B.	Durban Arrivals. DEVONSHIRE, HAWKINS, escorting W.S.4.B. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1156/12).
VIKING.	French naval trawler, arrived Freetown 12/12. (S.O.I. Freetown 1355/12).
CARNARVON CASTLE.	My 1031/11. Desirable should refit concurrently with action repair. Report whether refit of main engine can be undertaken at Simonstown. (C.in C. S.A. 1739/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown). Remarks on her action with raider. (R.A.S.A.D.1238/Z/12).
Enemy Unit.	ASCENSION'S 1807/11. and 1810/11. The presumed German message was watched for at Freetown but not heard and if this was due to skip distance it is suggested in the absence of bearings other than from ASCENSION that the presumed German surface unit transmitting may have been between positions on the equator 20° W., and 15° N., 31° W at 1837 G.M.T./11. This may possibly refer to the unit concerned in Admiralty's message 0954/10 Dec. (C.in C. S.A. 1047N/12 to Admty).
CANTON.	Your 1705/11. Agree that CANTON returns to Freetown without calling at U.K. C.in C. W.A. requested to issue necessary instructions and route. My 1211/4 to D. of S.T. etc. T.124X ratings in GLOUCESTER CASTLE will be retained for CANTON. (C.in C. S.A. 1637/12 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FORRION STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Foreign Legion Movement.

Admty. 2353/10. Request whether you will be able tcarrange for local movement from Duala to Freetown of Legion totalling 1275 all ranks. NEURALIA will be suitably stored in U.K. for conveyance of these French troops. Some of personnel arriving in NEURALIA from U.K. will require onward movement to Takoradi. Your 1945/11 and N.C.S.O. Duala's 1819/10. Agree use of PORT LAMY place of CASAMANCE. Ref. CAPO OLMO, see my 2102/11.
(D. of S.T. 1655/12 to C.in C. S.A.)

Your 1945/11. PORT LAMY expects to complete loading motor transport of Foreign Legion Duala 19/12 and arrive Port Harcourt to bunker 20/12. Further programme. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1717/12 to C.in C. S.A.)

D. of S.T's 2102/11, para.3 suggests an entirely new requirement of which I have no previour knowledge, request that I may be informed of details. As matter is getting so involved, intend to make no further suggestion until D. of S.T. has had time to clear up confusion. (C.in C. S.A. 1951N/12 to Adty).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Your 1257/10.(No trace in W.R.) PRETORIA CASTLE is to be sailed p.m./14 via ST. Helena through J.35 (a) and (b) to patrol in J.34 (a) and (b), then to patrol in I 34 visiting Fernando de Noronha then to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1953/N/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Dodecanese.

Inquiry. Chiefs of Staff No.31 to C.in C. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1236/12 See Med. Vol.

My 1241/17/11. (no trace). Reporting conversation with Admiral Ulgen of Turkish Delegation re future of Dodecanese. (C.in C. Med. 1651/11).

Western Desert Operations.

Air report. Operational Summary 185 to 1200/12. Aircraft of F.A.A. bombed Sollum and escarpment road south of Sollum. G.H.Q. B.T.E. state Sidi Barani captured and occupied 11/12. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1248/12).

My 2225/11. Bombardment of Bardia abandoned owing to low visibility. Many naval units now engaged in supplying forward troops and evacuating prisoners. Badly hampered bt strong westerly wind. Reported to be 30,000 prisoners. (C.in C. Med 1347/12).

Submarines.

Admty. 1228/29 and 1222/4. Intend to transfer OTUS, PANDORA and OLYMPUS to 8 S.F. dates. (C.in C. Med. 1627/11).

Malta.

Air report. No operations on account of weather. No enemy air activity. (H.Q. F.A.R. Malta 1715/12).

Enemy Intelligence.

From Greek Vice-Consul, Benghazi, prisoner Benghazi and Rome to 5/12, re movement of convoys to Benghazi, coast guns, seaplane base at Sebka El Bunta, etc. (N.A.Athens 1702/12).

Source reliability B 2 reports: Two destroyers in damaged state arrived Fiume on 26/10. Repair of one expected to last two months and other from four to six months. In Fiume harbour two tankers for Roumania and four tankers for Italy under construction. Each should be around 500 tons. Non delivery of materials from Germany has retarded

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

construction.
(A.N.A. Belgrade 1838/12).

East Indies.

Kismayu.

(C.in C. E.I. 1902/Z/11 to Adty).
(See Operations Vol.)

Oil Tanks, Suspected sabotage.

Trincomalee 2/12 when Norwegian tanker THELMA discharging valve locking gear opened by an ill-disposed person, not necessarily enemy agent, and 650 tons of fuel lost. Sabotage probably committed by native employee. Improvement to valve locking gear and additional security measures in hand.
(Capt: i/c Ceylon 1316Z/12).

Aden Equipment.

S.N.O. Red Sea. 1814/10/11 and 0656/19/11. Following equipment urgently required at Aden is available Rangoon and Bombay. Request approval to allocate
(C.in C. E.I. to Adty. 0718Z/12).

U.S. Convoys.

Your 0808/10 (1) Working on average number of ships required for onward U.S. Convoys and the ships at my disposal, not possible for them all to be capable of 15 knots. Regret no faster ships than ROHNA and RAJULA are available. If possible NEVASA 12½ knots, the slowest ship in the Convoy will be replaced by FELIX ROUSSEL if this ship can be completed in time.
(P.S.T.O. India 0605Z/12 to C.in C.E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Japanese Ships, Examination.

See Blanketing O/2213 of 1/12 and O/2265 of 8/12. I suggest intercepting the next suitable Japanese ship by Khor Kuwai patrol and sending complete mails to Karachi for examination. Request you amplify evidence in order to assist me in selecting ship.
(C.in C. E.I. 0618Z/12 to Adty).

SOUTHAMPTON
W.S.4.B.

SOUTHAMPTON is to leave Mombasa p.m./14 for Zanzibar to arrive about 0630Z/15. Mr. Hall British Resident Zanzibar and Governor Designate of Aden is to be embarked for passage Aden. As soon as embarked SOUTHAMPTON is to proceed so as to R/V with W.S.4.B. escorted by SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE in position 021° 20'S., 041° 10'W at 1100Z/17.
(C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/12).

SOUTHAMPTON
DEVONSHIRE
W.S.4.B.

Adty. 2219/26 and my 0720/4.
SOUTHAMPTON is to rendezvous with W.S. 4.B. in position 021° 20'S., 041° 10'E. at 1100Z/17, and relieve DEVONSHIRE. On relief DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Simonstown subject to concurrence C.in C. S.A.
(C.in C. E.I. 1212Z/12).

U.S.7.

Arrival 0800Z/12. CHAKDINA departure 1043Z PERTH to join U.S.7.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1044Z/12).

GAIRSOPPA
"Q"
Report.

British ship GAIRSOPPA when in position 8 N., 84 E at 1350Z/10 heard very faint Q.S. Message could not be read because of interference from call signs JAPD and JJAC. Consider interference unintentional and wireless operators report unreliable.
(C.in C. E.I. 1544Z/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Report. — Summary No. 183. One Blenheim 203 Squadron provided Fighter escort convoy U.S.7. 4 Blenheims 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties two making A/S searches en route. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1736/12.)

China.

Raider. — Examination of photographs. Details. (C.in C. China, 1231Z/12).

Japanese Fleet. German Raider. — Following received from Navy Dept. (Situation of Japanese combined fleet.) In Indian ocean in mid. November Nazi raider described as about 10,000 tons 18 knots six guns torpedo tubes several planes, appearance like P and O liner and has dummy equipment for changing silhouette. This raider captured Norwegian vessels OLE JACOB and TEDDY sunk latter and sent former into Kobe where crew was placed on board SCHARNHORST. No definite moves as yet but considerable activity on German ships in Japanese ports. (N.A.Washington 1219/12)

America and West Indies.

A.M.S. Armament. — Present main armament and fire control system of the 3 Canadian A.M.C's (4 6" Mark VIII guns on P III 20" mountings) would appear very inadequate against the type of enemy raider liable to be met with vide R.A.S.A.D.1714/6. (N.6.H.Q.Ottawa 1224/11 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

BATHURST. H.M.A.S. allotted signal letters VLRB Ship proceeds to sea 14/12. (A.C.N.B. 1340Z/12).

KOMATA. Raider Attack. My 0054Z/9 attack by raider on shipping off Nouru. Oar marked KOMATA washed up on Ocean Island 12/12. (A.C.N.B. 1829Z/12)

Your 0054/9. Request details of damage to shipping and port facilities. (N.I.D.4 to A.C.N.B. 2208/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MADRID. Left Las Palmas 1900/11 in northerly direction. (F.O.C.N.A. to N.A. Station 0925/12). Description of MADRID. (F.O.C.N.A. 1033/12) Informing S/M's on patrol area B. (V.A.B. 1104/12).

ITHAKA. Left with 720 tons of munitions from Germany for Persian Govt. via Batoum. (Macrae, Galatcz 1140/12).

SALZBURG. Departure in ballast. (Macrae Galatz. 1140/12).

WINNETOU. My 0754/10. WINNETOU returned Kobe 12/12. Appears to have been under repair Upper post painted dark grey. (Capt: O.S., Singapore, 1148Z/12).

BRAKE. German tanker without name supposed to be BRAKE arrived Ferrol 11/12, believed came from Vigo. (Coruna 2000/12, 2030/12).

HEINRICH ARP. HEINRICH ARP took provisions and 100 tons bunkers 11/12 now painted black including funnel and is ready to sail. German Embassy motor car arrived at Ferrol morning of 11/12 left night of 11/12 probably with orders for vessels. (Guyatt S.Coruna. 2000/12).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAURO CROCHE.

MAURO CROCHE mentioned used to be named GALLIPOLI.
(Barcelona, 1746/12 to Fairmiso, London).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

CARDITA.
(attacked 11/12.)

Am escorting CARDITA to Clyde then proceeding Liverpool, E.T.A. Clyde 0140/13. (CHELSEA, 1930/12).

TOWA.
(torpedoed 11/12.)

Dutch 5419 tons. Your 1757/11. Have picked up 16 survivors in 2 boats from TOWA at 0100 in position 058 49'N 010 09'W. Master reports ship torpedoed at 1900/11, also Commodore's ship name ending in LEIGH and 1 tanker hit at 1500/11 but tanker not sunk. Am proceeding with my force to R/V. RODNEY.
(MATABELE, 0631/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

ROTORUA.
TOWA.
(torpedoed 11/12.)

Proceed forthwith to assistance of ROTORUA in position 58° 56'N., 11° 20'W. at 1300/11 carrying out search on passage for TOWA and an unknown tanker in position 58° 49'N., 10° 09'W at 1900/11. Tug SUPERMAN is being sailed from Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1115/12 to BRIGAND).

Departure Port ZA 1710/12 Fleet tug BRIGAND in execution of your 1115/12.
(Trelawney 1711/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Sailed Tug MARAUDER from Cambeltown at 1420 to assistance of TOWA in position 580 49'N., 100 09'W and ROTORUA in position 580 56'N., 110 20'W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1501/12).

102 survivors of ROTORUA landed Stornoway from EBOR WYKE, VARANGA and ALSEY.
(N.O.I.C. Stornaway 1838/12).

Submarines Reported.
0150.

Attack U/Boat reported by a/c in 50.21N., 05.51W at 0150 steering 008°.
(C.in C. W.A. 0246/12 to MONTGOMERY).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.	
0150. (Contd.)	One Sunderland arriving vicinity of 58.58 N., 11.20 W. about 1200/12 to search for U/Boat. (C.in C. Rosyth 0330/12 to Orkneys and Shetlands).
1007. 1108.	52°-153° N., 17°- 20°W., say 300' W of Dingle Bay, very indefinite. (D.S.464).
1330.	Am investigating oil patch in 55-45N., 7-52 W. (A/C, 1330/12 to Aldergrove).
1614.	D.F. probable U/Boat, 55°- 56° N., 10°- 15° N. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1657/12).
1520.	Unidentified Submarine 55.32N., 6.59W at 1520/12 course 110° reported P/272. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1910/12) (D.D.I.C. 2147/12).
2007.	D.F. probable U/Boat vicinity of Boylagh Bay 54.50N., 8.30 W., reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2135/12 and 2149/12 to N.A. Dublin) Reported by A/C.
1145.	About 54° N., 19°- 21°W., position indefinite (D.S.465).
1235.	No fix, repetition of1145/12 position indefinite. (D.S. 465).
2020.	51°-52°N., W. of 17° W. position indefinite (D.S.465).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 12.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

2014. 54°- 55° N., 11°- 14° W. position indefinite. (D.S.465).

Ferrol. Spanish s.s. SANTA CLARA arrived Ferrol from South Spain reports having seen several submarines probably coming to escort German merchant ships. (Guyath.S.Coruna. 2000/12 to Adty).

Search from Milford Haven. Information. U/Boat reported in position 50° 50'N., 07° 10'W at 2320/10 and 50° 21'N., 05° 51'W at 0150/12 steering 080° . All available A/S Trawlers and Yachts are to R/V in position 0000 Hartland Point 8 miles as arranged by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and search area within 8 miles of the coast between Hartland Point and Trevose Head being North of Hartland Point by 0800/13. Other Trawlers and Destroyers will be searching to S.W. of this area. Aircraft are co-operating Eight destroyers may be expected to pass North-eastwards through area during the early hours tomorrow Friday.
(C.in C. W.A. 1155/12 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.O.I.C. Swansea.)

Sailed ROSEMARY, DERBY COUNTY to carry out purport of C.in C. W.A. 1155/12.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1716/12).

Search from Dartmouth. 1U/Boat reported in position 50° 50'N., 07° 10' W at 2320/10 and 50° 21'N 05° 51'W at 0150/12 steering 080°.
Available A/S trawlers are to be sailed as soon as ready to search area to Northward of line joining Longships and Sevenstones to 50° 25'N. Other trawlers will be searching within 10 miles of North coast of Cornwall. Destroyers TRIUMPHANT and JERSEY will be operating to North and West of Trawler search.
Aircraft are co-operating.
Eight destroyers may be expected to pass north eastwards through area during the night.
(C.in C. W.A. 1158/12 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Search from Dartmouth. (Contd.)

My 1158. The one available A/S trawler from each of Falmouth and Plymouth are to R/V off Lizard as arranged by Cdr. A/P Plymouth and proceed to search within 10 miles of North Coast of Cornwall as far as Trevose Head. (C.in C. W.A. 1200/12).

Your 1158/12. Sailed LORD ESSENDEN, KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and PEARL. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1516/12 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.

Italian.
1 or 2 near Azores.
1 in about 49° N., to 50° N., 17° W to 19° W, at 1741/11 outward bound.
1 in about 50° N., 12° W. at 1553/11 homeward bound.
1 probably west of Ireland.
1 in area 53° N., to 54° 19° W., to 20° W.

German.
1 in Cape de Verde Islands area.
1 may arrive Lorient tonight.
1 in about 52° N., 17° W. to 20° W.
1 in about 54° N., 17° W. to 18° W.
1 in about 54° N., 20° W.
1 commencing patrol may be about 55° N., 10° W. to 12° W.
1 in about 59° N., to 60° N., 15° W. to 17° W.
1 attacked convoy near 59° N., 10° W. to 11° W.
1300/11 and 1900/11.
(D.D.I.C. 1341/12). (V.A.S. 1552/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1400.

Am over enemy submarine in 50.26N., 5.20 W., course 110° have dropped 2 bombs. (A/C T.O.R. 1400/2 to PEMBROKE) A/C attacked U/Boat in 50.23N., 5.20W., at 1407.
(C.in C. W.A. 1422/12 to MONTGOMERY).

Proceed as soon as possible after 1530 when channel is swept to attack U/Boat in 50.26N., 05.20W at 1407.
(A.C.W.A. 1450/12 to JERSEY, French L/C LE TRIUMPHANT) Ditto to WRESTLER.
(C.in C. W.A. 1455/12).

Report of air attack. First bomb dropped 1,000 ft., second attack 700 ft. bomb failed to release. 1 direct hit with bomb, explosion seen. S/M submerged after first bomb dropped no oil or air bubbles seen. 2 periscopes observed and bomb appeared direct hit between them. White framework seen on surface after attack.
(Plymouth 1900/12 to H.Q. C.C.)

80

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

N.C.S. Iceland — Consider Naval Control Service Station urgently required for Seyfisfjord. Reasons. Proposed Arrangements. (F.O. Iceland, 1732/13

Defence of U.K.

Cromarty. — No 1. mine loop Cromarty laid 13.12.1940. (C.O.C./M Base, Nigg, 1126/13)

DELUGE — At 1130/13. (D.C. 1149/13)

At 2330/13. (D.C. 2345/13)

Movements

QUEEN ELIZABETH — Re Lights. (QUEEN ELIZABETH 0130/13, C. in C., W.A., 0322/13) My 1950/12. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be late. Orders (C. in C., W.A., 1124/13 to SOUTHDOWN) Estimated position at 0800 (R.A.(D) H.F. 1150/13)

Weather permitting 3 Blenheims will meet you as fighter escort and 1 Hudson as anti-submarine escort at dawn 14/12. (1956/13)

Your 1747/12. Anticipated that QUEEN ELIZABETH will be approximately 2 hours late at position off Tiumpan Head 14/12. (QUEEN ELIZABETH, 2347/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

SCOTTISH LOCH OSKAIG ALLOUETTE IMPERALIST — Western Patrol A/S trawlers. Leave Rothesay at 0900/14 for Gibraltar. Route. (F.O.C.N.I. 0920/13)

M.L. 124 — Arrived sheltering. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0900/13)

M.L. 162 — Arrived Fishguard 0515 for shelter. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0931/13)

NORTHMIND LA MELPOMENE — Your 1927/12 both ships arrived. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1000/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

/Dover.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Dover Dispositions	For night of 13/14 Dec. Weather permitting. (V.A.Dover, 1242/13)
WORCESTER	C. in C., Nore 1440/12. WORCESTER to sail for Rosyth 1300/14, reporting E.T.A. Rosyth to F.O.I.C. Harwich before sailing. If Rosyth closed due to mining, WORCESTER is to proceed to Scapa direct reporting E.T.A. as soon as known. Route as in my 1258/13. (Capt. D. 16 1257/13 to WORCESTER)
Portsmouth, Night Movements	No patrols except in Eastern Approaches. No passages, no convoys. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1307/13)
Northern Patrol	Trawlers line occupied tonight 13/12. (3 trawlers) (A.C.O.S. 1536/13)
M.A.S.B's	Request be informed of anticipated date of sailing these M.A.S.B's (C. in C., W.A. 1516/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
KASHMIR	On parting company with QUEEN ELIZABETH proceed with KIPLING, PUNJABI and JUPITER to carry out an A/S sweep through Q.Z.F. 15 and along N coast Cornwall. U-Boat was bombed in position 50° 26' N., 05° 20' W., at 1407/12. Continuous air search being maintained weather permitting. A/S trawlers, and yachts searching A. in Q.Z.F. 15. Within ten miles of coast between Lands End and Trevose Head. North of a line Longships to Sevenstones to 50° 25' N. On completion of sweep continue hunt in area between coast of Cornwall and 7° W. (C. in C., W.A., 1246/13 to KASHMIR)
WOLFE CHITRAL	My 1000/12. WOLFE's sailing delayed until 1600/14. CHITRAL to pass through 60° 50' N., 15° 00' W., at 1600/16. (1944/13)

/RAMILLIES.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

RAMILLIES

Admty. 1719/6 and my 1852/10 request sail RAMILLIES escorted by FERNIE, CLEVELAND, CATTISTOCK and HOLDERNESS to Plymouth as soon as ready. (C. in C., W.A., 2336/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Operations

Operation P.V.I.

P.V.One will be carried out from 2100 to 2300- 13. Aircraft will drop flares between these times. (C. in C., Nore 1020/13 to F.O.i/c Harwich, F.O.i/c Yarmouth, Cdre. Sheerness EGRET, VORTIGERN, EGLINTON, SHEARWATER, Admiralty 16 group, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.B.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Proposed Operation

239. Your 1743/10 Paragraph 4. G.O.C. could spare eight of his Ski platoons if reliefs asked for by Norwegian Naval Liaison Officer from Norwegian Army Command are available. The other eight and their officer are required as Ski instructors in Iceland. Four Meteorologists including two W/T operators removed from Jan Mayer available here also. Numbers to complete could be found locally and made available after short period of training. Officer not available Iceland. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1307/13 to Admty.)

Operation P.V.I.

My 1020/13 P.V.One cancelled on account of weather. (C. in C., Nore, 1645/13 to Admiralty, F.O.I.C's Harwich, Yarmouth, Commodore Sheerness, EGRET, VORTIGERN, EGLINTON, SHEARWATER.)

M.T.B. Operation

Weather permitting M.T.B's are to operate between Flushing and Ostend tonight Friday. If considered practicable Flushing roads should be visited. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E., may be attacked without challenge. Operation P.V. one will start at 2100 M.T.B's to be clear by that time. (C. in C., Nore, 1032/13)

Harwich 13/12 Departures M.T.Bs 29,32,34 at 1935. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1946/13 to Admty)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

WHITEBEAR

Request may be sailed to arrived Tobermory a.m. 20/12. Netherlands S/M No 14 escorted by WHITEBEAR to arrive Dundee 22/12. (Capt. (S) 7, 1117/13 to Capt (S) 3) C. in C., W.A., 1110/13 On reaching W end Q.E.F. 18 proceed in company to 170° Bishop Rock 23 miles thence TUNA to patrol by route ordered. WHITEBEAR to Plymouth and reports 2 hours after parting company. A/S ships hunting to E 007° W. (Capt (S) 2, 1609/13 to TUNA, WHITEBEAR) Your 1110/13 received. Position (details), request instructions. (? WHITEBEAR, 1615/13 to C. in C., W.A.) WHITEBEAR escorting TUNA reported by Lundy Is. 1545/13 steering S.W. Evidently not received my 1110/13 (C. in C., W.A., 1740/13 to KASHMIR)
Following is repetition of my 1110/13 (C. in C., W.A., 1820/13 to WHITEBEAR)
Repetition of my 1615/13. Your 1110/13 received. (WHITEBEAR, 2130/13 to C. in C., W.A.)

Positions and Movements

For following 24 hours at 0800/14. (V.A.S. 1918/13)

British Air Activity

Patrols today

CENTO in lieu of MUGGY STAB (C. in C., Rosyth 1016/13)

Attacks for night 13/14.

AP/667/12. Available A/C of No 22 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M targets in No 1 basin at Bordeaux. (H.Q.C.C. 1310/13)

AP/664 13/12 P.R.U. reports six possibly seven S/Ms present at Lorient. Positions. Available A/C of 53,59 and 217 Sqdns. to attack tonight submarines and Naval Dockyard. Details of Bombs. (H.Q.C.C. 1235/13)

Enemy Air Activity

Prater Mine Depot

Air raid on night of 11-12/12 at Prater mine depot and Elson caused very slight damage. (Supt. C.K., Dockyard, Portsmouth 1445/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Thames and Medway

Thames and Medway closed owing to mines. (F.O.I.C. London. 0403/13)

One low flying hostile A/C suspected minelating plotted at 0303 over or near Malle Spitway East Swin and Barrow Deep (positions) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0527/13)

My 0403/13 Traffic in the river to the West of Southend Pier may be resumed as far as Southend. (F.O.I.C. London, 1005/13)

My 0403/13. Vessels may proceed between London River and the Medway via the Switchway. Precautions. (F.O.I.C. London 1130/13)

Cancel my 1130/13. No ship to navigate in River Thames below Scars Elbow. (F.O.I.C. London. 1441/13)

Pyrotechnics etc., in Thames Estuary on night 12/13 very large number of mines were laid from aircraft near Thames Boom. These have been reported in other signals. Pyrotechnics were are follows: 1620/13

Cancel my 1 30/13/12. Switchways has not yet been swept and not to be used. (F.O.I.C. London, 2028/13)

Thameshaven

At 2005 one parachute mine exploded in air off Thameshaven jetty, a second parachute mine fell in River 1 cable S. No 6 jetty Thameshaven and exploded at 2045. Third and fourth explosions in water 1 cable S. Shell Haven at 2047. First and second explosions parachutes were seen. No damage to ships or jetties. (F.O.I.C. London. 2100/13)

My 2100/13. Further investigation shows that no sweeping will be necessary. (F.O.I.C. London, 2220/13)

/heerness.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Cont.

Sheerness Mines Dropped

My 0412 and 0833 mine dropped at 0455 (position) additional information now to hand gives further reports of 5 mines as follows. Further mines have been reported in Boom gates but not yet certain whether Thames or Medway Gate is involved. Further signal will be sent. (X.D.O.Sheerness 1155/13)

Sheerness

SUNLIGHT reports one mine detonated at 1957/12 by S.A. gear 231° B.3 buoy 2 miles ST. OLIVE reports one red mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 0555/13 280° E Spile Buoy 1.7 miles. Detonation accompanied by prolonged flash. (Capt M/S Sheerness, 1356/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Nore

Following received from ALOHA, via Foulness "A mine about 8 ft long and 3 ft. in -Diameter lies in position on Foulness Sands 1 mile S.E. (Mag) from West Buxey Buoy" 1931/13 ends. 2221/13

Humber

Humber open to navigation. (F.O.Humber 0738/13 amended 0810/13)

WINDSOR

Sheerness for Chatham 13/12 arrival WINDSOR in tow ST MELLONS and escorted by WIDGEON at 2010/12. (C. in C., Nore, 0910/13)

Minesweeping

My 1950/12 four M/S trawlers to be detailed to carry out exploratory sweep Q.Z.Y. 161 to position 000° Trevose Head 5 miles. Trawlers from Falmouth sweeping southern portion to this point. (C. in C., W.A., 1330/13 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
Your 1617/10.

Acoustic Mines

Safety cannot be ensured but best to avoid speeds at which vibration is heavy. C. in C., Nore has ordered M.L.s to proceed at more than 11 and less than 16 knots, recommending 1400 revs. For M.G.B's and fast M.B's a speed less than 20 and more than the lower critical is suggested. Zig zag at high speed is likely to explode mines the only safety being the chance of causing explosion at a distance rather than under. (D.M.S. 1915/13 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TARONGA.

Reported that Wilhelmsen vessel TARONGA now being fitted out as auxiliary cruiser at Oslo. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1559/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PRUDENT (Rescue tug)

In Lough Swilly main engine broken down will proceed as soon as repaired. Ship leaking badly fore and aft crews quarters flooded out. Repairs must be carried out before ship is seaworthy again. Urgent. (PRUDENT 0740/13).

Your 0740/13. When main engine is repaired return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1204/13).

SCOTT.

Propose sail from Lough Foyle for Belfast A.M. 14/12 in view of Admty 1825/12. (SCOTT, 1004/13 to R.A. Minelayers).

KELLY.

My 1117/12 (sailing for Immingham Sunday) KELLY slightly damaged during D G trials programme will be delayed about three days. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1014/13).

NELSON to dock.

A.S. Rosyth 1945/12. Propose NELSON Docks 24/12. Intend shifting my Flag to RODNEY for this period. (C.in C. H.F. 1036/13.).

Your 1036/13. Approved. (D.O.D.(H) 2120/13 to C.in C. H.F.).

OTTAWA.

Repairs completed 12/12. Ship sailed for Greenock a.m./13. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1048/13).

KALYPSO VERGOTTI

De KALYPSO VERGOTTI S.O.S. Ends. 1080/13 no further particulars. (Valentia Radio T.H.I. 1210/13).

FLEUR DE LYS, CAMPANULA

Your 1140/13 have detached FLEUR DE LYS whose A/S is broken down to escort CAMPANULA with defect in main engine to Londonderry. Escort for present consists of LEITH, WILD SWAN, PERIWINKLE. Intend detail WILD SWAN, PERIWINKLE for PEGASUS. (LEITH, 1445/13 to C.in C. W.A.)

DALEBY.

My 2255/4. DALEBY refloated 1519/13. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1535/13).

E. VAN VLANDEREEN.

My 1138/11 E. VAN VLANDEREEN delayed by collision. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1602/13).

EMPIRE ELK.

Sailed Tug SUPERMAN from Campbeltown 1530/13 to assistance of EMPIRE ELK in place of PRUDENT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1610/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ Position of ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

Position of EMPIRE ELK at 1127/13, 56° 12'N. 08° 38'W. Engines broken down. (P.O.I.C. Greenock, 2112/13 to SUPERMAN)

TYSA.

TYSA steering gear broken cannot repair require tug assistance position 58° 5"N. 6°2'W. (Wick Radio, 1745/13).

Following read Wick Radio from TYSA My 1745/13 steering gear temporarily repaired no more assistance required ship under control.
(Base Ship Scapa, T.O.R. 2339/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
H.X.91.

Estimated position 0900/13.
(D.T.D. 1139/13 to C.in C. H.F.)

COMANCHE has arrived, Liverpool.
This leaves only one ship, MEGARA,
British tanker, 7931 tons, unaccounted
for (D.O.R. 13/12).

36 ships of H.X.91 have arrived, 16
British, 5 Norwegian, 2 Dutch, 3 Greek,
1 Belgian. (D.S. 465 13/12).

W.N.52.

Arrived 0715/13. (N.C.S.O. Methil
0725/10).

O.G.47.

Route to avoid U/Boats.
(C.in C. W.A. 1334/13 to LEITH, WILDSWAN
etc.)

F.N.59.

Postponed 24 hours, fog.
(C.in C. Nore 0922/13 C.in C. Rosyth
1725/13).

F.N.57.

Arrived 1330/13. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1331/13

H.X.89.

10 hours late at R/V delayed by weather
on 24/11. One straggler, engine trouble,
all ships arrived.
(D.T.D. 1407/13).

O.B.C.256.

Sailed 0145/13. Escort VANQUISHER,
5 ships. (N.C.S.O.Oban 1305/13).

W.N.54.

Code "Chitty". Clyde portion 1 ship
escort HIGH WALPOLE. (N.C.S.O. Greenock
1234/13).

S.L.S.57.

Sailing telegram. Extract. (D.T.D.
1838/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.(Contd.)

W.N.53. My 1315/11/12. W.N.53 delayed 25 hours. Now due Duncansby 1130/16. After H.N. 40 has passed Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.C.S. is requested to sail FLEETWOOD to join W.N.53 off Duncansby Head.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0967/13 to FLEETWOOD A.C.C.S.)

W.N.53. 1909/13. H.M.Trawlers MORRIS DANCER, DRANSEY, 16 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock, 2044/13).

F.S.59. Number 15/12 departure SUTTON at 0945 to join F.S.59 thence Harwich.
(F.C.Humber 1009/13).

S.L.57. PEGASUS and two Corvettes are to remain with convoy until necessary to meet S.L.57 in position 55 07'N., 16 50'W at 1000/16. Remainder of escort remain with convoy till further orders. When clear of convoy WILD SWAN report Corvettes detailed for PEGASUS.
(C.in C.W.A. 1140/13 to LEITH. WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, PEGASUS).

S.L.57. My 1534/11. Amend R/V with S.L.57 S to read 55° 07' N., 16° 50' W at 1000/16.
(C.in C.W.A.1142/13 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

F.N.59. F.N.59 GUILLEMOT. Break off from Convoy at daylight and return to Harwich.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1246/13 to GUILLEMOT).

S.C.14. Proceed direct to 55° 30'N., and sweep towards North Channel. Search for S.C. 14, 21 ships Commodore Master ATHENIC. BROKE and LA MALOUINE pass by V/S to trawlers in company.
(C.in C.W.A. 1515/13 to BROKE SALADIN SARDONYX LA MALOUINE).

F.S.57. H.M.Trawler NOTTS COUNTY arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1309/13 to N.C.S.O. Thames. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

O.B.259. My 1613/13 (Sailing ARABIS for O.B.M. 259) correct O.B.M.259 to read O.B.259. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 2350/13).

O.B.259. Sailed O.B.M.259 (a) 1653/13 (b) H.M.Trawler LEEDS UNITED (c) 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven. 1719/13).

H.G.49. Request you will issue necessary orders to LEITH for bringing back H.G.49. (C.in C.W.A. 1648/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

S.C.15. My p.c.s. at 1900/13 G.M.T. 052° 10'N., 035° 33'W (?240° 090°) 10. Request R/V S.C.15. (CILICIA, 1910/13 to F.O.C.N.P.)

M.G.B.47. Intend sailing M.G.B.47 for Fowey at 1100/14. T.T.A. position 173° Pecarro Head 2 point 5 miles 1500/14. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2215/13 to Adty etc.)

S.L.57. S.L.57 is to keep well clear to Westward of U/B reported in position 49° 50'N., 20° 55'W at 1857/13. (C.in C. W.A. 2342/13 to CANTON).

Colliers. Request you will sail SAPPHIRE and 3 French Trawlers to arrive Sand Head Buoy at 0700/15, where they will be joined by 2 small Colliers from Dover. Fighter protection from daylight 15th until arrival at Southend will be asked for. Route to be followed as in my 1302/6/12. (C.in C. Nore 1150/13 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

10.M/V's. My 2239/11. Sailed 10.M.V's including 2 Tankers and one Tug for Hartland Gap. Escorts CAPE COMORIN, ST. CATHAN and VICTRIX. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1649/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5.A.

W.S.5.A.(slow) sails Bar L.V. 1600/18 R.V. Bristol Channel Ship 53° 58'N., 3° 48'W at 1700/18. R/V Clyde and Belfast 180° 5 miles Oversay 0930/19. W.S.5.A. (Fast) sails Bar L.V. 0400/19. R/V Clyde Ships 000 degs. 8 miles Altacarry 1600/19 (Secret positions) (N.C.S.O.Liverpool 1711/13 to Adty).

BERA
SVEADROTT
CASTOR.

Your 1231/15/11. (Reporting safe conduct for Swedish Tankers BERA, SVEADROTT AND CASTOR). This matter has been dealt with between M.E.W. and the Swedish Legation in London.
(Hd. of M. 1709/13 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Motor
Ships
East
Coast.

Cancel my 2227/11 Ministry of Shipping requested to rearrange temporarily its programme to ensure that minumum number of ocean going motor ships will discharge on East Coast South of Firth of Forth, also that as many motor coasting vessels as possible will be transferred from East to West coast trading. There will remain a number of motor ships essential for maintaining supplies on East Coast and, subject to Admiralty agreement, these may proceed. Important that ocean going motor ships should keep their engine revolutions as low as possible, consistent with navigability in waters where accoustic mines are suspected. Motor coasting vessels, when approaching harbours and particularly between Humber light vessel and Grimsby roads and also between Sunk Light Vessel and Southend, to reduce their engine revolutions to half speed, or as low as safety permits, although this may entail temporarily parting from convoy. Number of ocean going motor tankers coming to East Coast ports will be decided as at present by direct consultation between the Oil Board and Admiralty. Subject to above motor vessels on East Coast now being held should be allowed to proceed.
(D.T.D. 2212/13 to C.in C's and N.C.S.O's).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration", AVANT-GARDE intercepted.

My 0946/9/12. FORESTER expected time of arrival Gibraltar 0130/14 with French M/V AVANT-GARDE intercepted off Cape Tresforcas at 0930/13. (F.O.C.N.A. 1244/13 to Admty) Vessels arrived 0145/14 (F.O.C.N.A. 0202/14).

Your 0946/9. Was "RATION" carried out yesterday, 12/12. If so request you will report the result of the operation and whether French ships BAMAKO and AVANT-GARDE, reported passing from West to East escorted by a French Armed Trawler in S.O. (I) Gibraltar's 1633/12 were intercepted. (D.O.D. (F) 1255/13 to F.O.C.N.A).

Your 1255/13. Yes see my 1244/13. Convoy was shadowed until dark last night at which time they were still in Spanish territorial waters and escorted. (AVANT-GARDE was intercepted alone outside Spanish territorial waters off Cape Tresforcas at 0930/13. French escort returning with other French merchant vessels is in straits now steering to westward keeping close to Moroccan shore. BAMAKO has not been located to-day Friday. Force now returning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1440/13 to Adty).

From your 1440/13 it does not appear that a ship which was actually being escorted at the time has been brought in. If not, "RATION" is to be continued until a test case has been carried out. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2100/13 to F.O.C.N.A.).

OREGON.

Intend sailing French ship OREGON for Gibraltar for onward routing to Toulon routed in accordance with Admty 1913/28/10, 0900/15, speed 11 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0938/13).

French Submarines.

French submarines LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE ARETHUSE, ARCHIMEDE, escorted by French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY expected to pass east west between 1100 and 1300 to-morrow Saturday, destination probably Casablanca. They should not be molested. (F.O.C.N.A. 1603/13 to N.A. Stn).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Italian Submarines. Tangier.

Tangier reports both Italian submarines have sailed (F.O.C.N.A. 0654/13). Consul General, Tangier, reports Italian U boats sailed 0430. Patrol outside territorial waters off Tangier reports having seen nothing. All available air and surface forces searching (F.O.C.N.A., 0800/13) 2 Italian U boats sailed from Tangier at 0430 (F.O.C.N.A. 0904/13 to SHEFFIELD PROTEUS).

CYMBELINE.

(Sunk by raider in 20°N, 35°W on 2/9) Wounded seamen landed St. Nazaire by REKUM (See German Merchant Ships).

Azores Patrol.

C. in C. Med. 1627/11 TRIDENT who will relieve CACHALOT on patrol will herself be due to leave patrol about (date) Intend TRIDENT should be relieved by one of 8th S/M F. (V.A.S. 1121/13 to Admty).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 Italian submarines left Tangier 0330 hrs. 13/12. Routine A.S. patrols in Straits. Four A.S. searches. Two reccos. to east co-operative with A.C.N.A. in bringing in French merchant vessels not in Spanish territorial waters. Ship seized AVANT-GARDE. Area covered 1°West of 6° 50'W. (200 Group 1700/13).

South Atlantic.

HAWKINS.

Sailed in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1257/11 (VENOMOUS, 11032/13 to Admty etc)

KOSMOS.

Reports received that Norwegian whaler KOSMOS has been captured by a raider and is now detained at Dakar. Report whether recent arrivals from Dakar have any knowledge. (D.D.I.C. 1128/13 to S.O.I Freetown).

ASTURIAS

Left Capetown 1230/13 for square L.32 in accordance your 1019/11 to R.A.S.A.D. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1303B/13 to C in C S.A).

/CUBA.....

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued)

CUBA
INDOCHINOIS
POITIERS.

Passengers and crews now being removed. Kept on board at Freetown since 7/11 and 19/10 respectively. Disadvantages of such delay. Request internment camps in the Colony be esteblished (C in C. S.A, 1953/13 to Admty). Your 2211/28/11 and 1240/7. Hoped to send in Portuguese MOUZINHO and SERPA PINTO approx 670 Frenchmen from CUBA to Casablanca. Merchant Officers and crew are being repatriated as opportunity offers in accordance para 2a of your 1841/15/11 after the naval personnel have left. Merchant crews of POITIERS and INDOCHINOIS have been interned. See A.T. 1104/29/10 (C. in C. S.A. 1951/13 to Admty).

LARISTAN damaged.

Your 2120/12 (requesting report on damage to LARISTAN) LARISTAN getting under weigh to come alongside me was in collision stern first with motor vessel PERU. LARISTAN'S rudder bent hard aport and top Gudgeon broke. Minimum number of dockyard and shipwright ratings being left to effect repair of LARISTAN which it is hoped will be completed by 14/12. T.O.O. 1515/10. Fuller report expected from HERMES on her return to St. Helena about 14/12. (C. in C. S.A. 1007/13).

PRAHOVA
SIRETUL
OLTUL
MIMOZA
BORIS
NADIN

Enemy ownership of following ships has been estsblished. If met with at sea they should be captured an brought in as prize; PRAHOVA reported at Los Angeles 23/9. SIRETUL reported at Cadiz 13/10. OLTUL at present at Pernambuco. The following three ships have been requisitioned by Greek Government and previous instructions to capture them are therefore cancelled; MIMOZA BORIS NADIN (C. in C. S.A. 1157N/13).

Foreign.
Legion
Movement.

Your 1738/9 of 10/12 and C. in C. S.A. 1331/10. Free French merchant personnel ex Freetown to be transhipped at Lagos to FORT DE TROYON, should on arrival at Duala together with Free French merchant personnel arriving Duala on CAPO OLMO, be sorted out to man FORT BINGER, FORT DE TROYON, TOUAREG, CHATEAUROUX, TOMBOTOU. In such arrangements please act in close touch with Captaine le Terrier arriving on CAPO OLMO, and Master of FORT DE TROYON. If necessary complete with British personnel. (D. of S.T. 2119/13 to N.O. S.O. Duala).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued)

Your 1951/12. It is confirmed that the movement outlined in A.T. 2353/10 holds good. For CASAMANCE read FORT LAMY. D. of S.T. 2102/11, the movement referred to in para. 3 is an additional commitment for which it is hoped the ships mentioned in para. 4 may prove suitable and capable for inclusion in W.S. 5A. You may be able to suggest alternative proposals. (D.O.D. (F) 2324/13 to C. in C. S.A).

Raiders.

Following Admiralty messages have been passed to C.S. 15:- 2250/6, 2252/6, 0033/9, 0034/9, 1629/12 and 1647/12.

Following have been passed to F.O. Force K:- 0033/9, 1742/12, 2156/12 and C. in C. Home Fleet's 1102/11 (D. O. D. (F) 1920/13 to C. in C. Med. Force H. etc).

CARNARVON CASTLE (raider action 5/12)

Your 001/6. Following enemy reports transmitted by CARNARVON CASTLE.

T.O.O.	Frequency Kc/s		Remarks
Alarm Report	500,	8330.	Commercial Broadcasting at 1006.
1005	500, 12850	8330	Broadcast at frequent intervals on alternate frequencies between 1015 and 1210.
1057	500, 12950	8330	Broadcast at frequent intervals on alternate frequencies between 1120 and 1210.

None of above signals received by R.A. S.A.D. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, or Falkland Is. W/T Station. Message 1113 broadcast at 1226 on 8330 Kc/s and received only by R.A. South America Division.

/At.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

CARNARVON CASTLE (raider action 5/12) (contd).

At 1000 N.A.S.A.D. was approximately 400 miles from CARNARVON CASTLE, and QUEEN OF BERMUDA was probably within 300 miles. All times G.M.T. (R.A.S.A.D. 1359Z/13 to C. in C. S.A.).

Mediterranean.

Western Desert.

Operational Summary No 136 to 1200/13. Mentions several attacks on Bardia, Gazala, Tobruk, etc., on lines of enemy retreat and landing grounds in Libya. Aircraft of F.A.A. also bombed Bardia and Tobruk. G.H.Q. M.E. report our ground forces crossed Libyan Frontier into Capuzzo area 12/12. (H.Q. M.A.F. M.E., 1323/13).

Summary of operations. Bombardment of Bardia by battleships and attack on El Adem Aerodrom had to be abandoned on 12/12 owing to heavy weather and low visibility. One Fulmar forced landed during operation and crew safe. Despite weather conditions supplies have been moved up coast and landed at Sidi-Barrani. One X lighter sank heavy weather. A ferry service of Egyptian vessels as well as Men-of-War is bringing back prisoners of which 7500 should have arrived by tonight. Stores and water being landed at Sidi Barrani and Meras Matruh till Army can clear Sollum. Weather now improving.

TERROR recommenced operation at Bardia 2100/13, she was unsuccessfully attacked by E. Boat during the night. Gunboats co-operated at Sollum and are now joining TERROR for deliberate bombardment of Bardia during the next day or two. Destroyers covering operation. A/S Patrols, air and surface have resulted in sinking of Italian Submarine NAIADE as reported. Disembarked F.A.A. Aircraft have been co-operating throughout with flare dropping and A/S Patrols. 830 Squadron from Malta attacked Tripoli (Africa) night of 13/14. Four tons of bombs dropped two sticks burst among ships in mid-stream three direct hits on two ships alongside North Mole also on warehouses causing explosions. Swordfish failed to return. (C. in C. Med 1145/13).

/M.M.B.D.C.....

MOST SECRET.

13. 12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

M.N.B.D.O. For Cs in C. from Chiefs of Staff No 30 Agreed that R.M. Group of M.N.B.D.O will be sent to Middle East in W.5.6. Details of Group. Your 1055/13 and Admty. 1941/9 refer (1 S.L. 1645/13 to C. in C. Med).

BONAVENTURE Personnel Transport. Admty. 1742/12 para 3 BONAVENTURE will carry 9 officers and 71 O.R. to Gibraltar where they are to be transferred to destroyers as arranged by S.O. Force H. for onward passage to Malta. These troops have no connection with Operation "Workshop" (D.O.D (F) 2113/13 to C. in C. Med etc) Cancel my 2113/13 (D.O.D. F). 1331/15).

Dodecanese. Your 1651/11. Name of one island is corrupt but presume Rhodes and Kos are intended. Please confirm (D.N.I. to C. in C. Med. 2214/13).

Western Desert Operations in Support of Army. My 1347/12. No bombarding operations carried out today owing to uncertainty of military situation on Sollum Escarpment where fighting is still in progress. PROTECTOR, CHAKLA, FIONA, destroyers, water and petrol carrier, KNIGHT OF MALTA and various Egyptian ships and small craft are operating between Alexandria and Mersa Matruh and Sidi Barrani in order to land provisions and stores and remove prisoners. Weather hampering these operations, but now improving. LADYBIRD and TERROR now proceeding to Gulf of Sollum to bombard tomorrow if required. Preliminary report of Sollum operations indicate TERROR and gunboats assisted by Capt (D) 14 in JERVIS, with NUBIAN, JANUS and HEREWARD did useful work by harassing escarpment road during an important period 0130/11 to 0100/12. All ships were fired on by shore batteries about 6 inch calibre but no hits. Gunboats used pompoms when enemy personnel left vehicles and ran. TERROR and gunboats fired (?practically? (?continously).
(C. in C. Med 2215/13 to Admty).

/Italian .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Italian Supplies. Albania. Both Minister of War and Chief of General Staff in conversation yesterday stressed vital importance of British Naval action preventing Italian materials of War from reaching Albania. They stated although Italians had lost much War material had lost neither many prisoners nor casualties. This implied that they had succeeded in withdrawing successfully their troops, and they believed that it might be possible for them to reform and regain their morale provided necessary materials could be brought from Italy. Both Minister of War and Chief of General Staff doubt ability of Greeks to expel Italians from Albania unless conditions referred to above are fulfilled. (A.N.A. Belgrade, 1248/13).

Malta Air Report. All times G.M.T. 1043-1427 Glenn Martin on photographic reconnaissance Tripoli harbour and Pantelleria. Tripoli harbour - 7 destroyers - one fleet auxiliary - 9 M/V's 10,000 tons - 30 smaller M/V's. Pantellaira not photographed due to enemy patrolling 1650 local time 8 Swordfish left to attack Tripoli. 1655 local time 4 Wellingtons left to attack Valona. If weather suitable at target further 4 Wellingtons will follow. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1720/13).

BARBETTE. Turkish Crew. Your telegram 1539/10 (re B.D.V. BARBETTE) Turkish General staff agree to send crew to Egypt as soon as possible for instructions in similar class of ship so that BARBETTE can be taken over and commissioned under Turkish flag immediately on arrival. 1924/13 Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Submarines. Intended that O, P. and R. class submarines should refit in U.K. owing to the urgency for carrying out modifications for noise reduction and to adjust complements. Your remarks requested together with proposed programme for their return. Assumed this would permit refitting your other submarines on the station. D.O.D. (F) 2237/13 to C. in C. Med).

/COVENTRY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

D./ENTRY reported mined.

COVENTRY reports being mined in position 032° 27', 026° 44' at 2042. Proceeding to Alexandria at 13 knots. Destroyers and PROTECTOR joining her. Suspect (?Submarine) (C. in C. Med 2249/13 to Admty) (Ship was torpedoed - see 14/12.).

East Indies.

Air Reports.

Operational Summary 186 part 3 (Sudan) and 4 (Kenya) No naval items (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1324, 1326/13) Operational Summary 184 No Naval items A.H.A. Aden 1608/13).

W.S. 5.B.

Admty U.36/12 Intend ships to be detached from W.S. 5B north of Nozambique Channel and to proceed to vicinity of Ceylon whence ship bound for India and Malya will proceed direct to destinations. (C. in C. E.I. 06582/13 to Admiralty).

B.S. 2½

Your 1146/11. Yes Convoy B.S. 2½ will be dispensed after passing Aden Request reply to my 1152/9 (C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/13 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Raider Actions

Request circumstances leading to encounters between ASCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE and respective raiders. Were the encounters entirely foituitous or result of an organised search? (C. in C. E.I. to C. in C. S.A. 1204Z/13

Whalers.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1021/11. He report whalers can reach Lindi from Durban, where I can arrange their fuelling. (C in C.E.I. to Admty 1206Z/13).

Pilgrim Ships.

Your 0544/2. Italians will not be informed officially but names of ships will be given wide publicity. Other details such as date of sailing and route will not be given. (Hd of M. 1458/13 to C. in C. E.I).

NETRAVATI
PARATI
RATAGIRI

My 0504/4. Dates when ready for service (F.O.C.R.I.N. to C. in C. E.I. 0930Z/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Free French Movement.

Report from De Schompse for De Gaulle (C. in C. China 0413/13).

OLE JACOB. (captured 10/11)

Raider which attacked OLE JACOB approached from Starboard bow signalling by lamp that she was H.M.S. ANTENOR wishing to examine OLE JACOB'S papers. Motor boat apparently containing three men left raider but on coming alongside ten more armed men appeared from under tarpaulin and seized ship. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0531Z/13 to Admty, etc.).

America and West Indies.

ST. CROIX.

Arrived here 1200 G.M.T. today (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1145/13).

French W. Indies. Trade.

Your tel. No. 87 of 12/12 to C. in C. A. W.I. only. In view of present U.S. (?Cargoes) I agree no purpose served by embargo on shipments in small quantities from Trinidad to French West Indies of Petroleum products other than fuel oil. Under the circumstances I now have no objection to an occasional visit by a schooner to carry small supplies and agree that this should be at discretion of Captain in charge Trinidad, who should report any such shipments to me. (C. in C. A.W.I. to Governor Trinidad).

CARADOC. DESPATCH DIOMEDE.

CARADOC leaves Jamaica a.m./15 and proceeds Bermuda via Crooked Island passage, so as to arrive p.m./18. DESPATCH leaves Bermuda on completion of practice p.m./16 and proceeds Kingston Jamaica via Crooked Island passage so as to arrive a.m./20. DIOMEDE will probably leave Jamaica for Trinidad on relief of DESPATCH and will subsequently proceed Bermuda to make good defects on relief of CARADOC. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2232/13);

U.S. Bases. Dues.

Governor Trinidad telegram 6126 of 10/12 to S. of S. for Colonies. I would urge most strongly that Colonial Government concerned be advised to waive custom dues on all gear and material required for construction and operational use of U.S. bases from now on. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2252/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET

13.12.1940
Friday

War Diary

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ATLAS	Valencia reports expects to sail tonight 12/13/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 0103/13 to C. in C., Med.)
REGENSBURG	B.2. report, took 1400 tons oil from other German ships, 1500 tons more will be taken from shore. B.3. report ship now taking large quantities apples and vegetables. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0831Z/13)
JOAO PESSOA	Has sailed from Vigo. Believed to have left about 1130 last night. (Consul, Vigo 1059/13) Informing submarines on patrol, area B. (V.A.S., 1554/13)
BRAKE	My 1406/11. BRAKE now reported at Ferrol (V.A.S., 1139/13)
BELLONA	Departure 13/12 believed bound for Valencia (Barcelona, 1714/13)
TARONGA	Following from prominent Norwegian. Wilhelmsen vessel TARONGA now being fitted out as auxiliary cruiser at Akers Works, Oslo. (B. 2) (N.A.Stockholm, 1559/13)
HELGOLAND	Italian broadcast on 12/12 claims HELGOLAND, which left Puerto Colombia on 28/10, has reached a German port. (D.S. 467)
REKUM	It is reported that German Tanker REKUM which sailed from Teneriffe 17/7 arrived St. Nazaire 8/10 and landed a wounded seaman from British CYMBELINE. CYMBELINE is known to have been sunk by a raider in 20° N., 35° W., on 2/9. REKUM has probably been acting as supply ship to this raider and may now have been relieved by another tanker. (D.D.I.C. 1544/13 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)
CHIPKA	Bulgarian ship CHIPKA reported to be under German charter from Odessa Dec. 13th unloading 371 tons machinery proceeding to Batum, date of sailing not yet known. (Consul, Sunsun, T.H.I. 2040/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Saturday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MAYA — Departure tanker MAYA Batoun (Varna, 0935/13)

CONTE GRANDE — N.C.S.O. Santos reports received 300 tons oil fuel and 30 tons paraffin (A.1) (S.O.I Freetown, 1042/13)

MAURO / CROCE — Imminent departure for Genoa (Barcelona, 1714/13)

FORTUNATA — Previously taken in prize by French. Believed to be at Port Lyantey, where she was recently reported to have been unloading her cargo of Toluol. Report now received that an Italian crew for her has arrived at Larache via Spain. (D.S. 465, 13/12)

BALENA / SARDELLA / PESCESPADA — Trawlers, which left Horta, Azores on 25/9 and Vigo on 1/10, claimed in an Italian broadcast 12/12 to have reached a French port on the Bay of Biscay. (D.S.467)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MANSEER — British, 7911 tons. SSSS 52.30 N., 05.21 W. Submarine sighted. Vis. mod. W.X. overcast (Via Lyness, 0154/13)

ORARI — British, 10,350 tons. SSSS, ORARI, 49.30 N., 20.55 W., torpedoed (Lands End Radio 1857/13)

South Atlantic

NEWTON PINE — British, 4212 tons. SSSS 02.06 N., 22.00 W., NEWTON PINE gunned. (Freetown W/T 1818/13)

ROTORUA — Following received from N.O.I.C. Stornoway:- Arrivals 12/12 EBOR WYKE, VARANGA and ALSEY landed 102 survivors of British ship ROTORUA T.O.O. 1838/12. (A.C.O.S. 0115/13 to Admty., etc.)

ROTORUA
TOWA
(Torpedoed 11/12) — Your 1400/13. No further information. ROTORUA believed sunk. If contact is not made search should be made for TOWA and unknown tanker in position 58° 49' N., 10° 09' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1617/13 to MARAUDER)

Survivors ROTORUA landed Stornoway. Chief Engineer stated definitely ship sank. (N.O.I.C., Stornoway, 1624/13 to MARAUDER)

My 1617/13. ROTORUA sunk. Carry out search for TOWA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2138/13 to MARAUDER, BRIGAND)

H.X. 90
(Attacked, 2/12) — Your 2000/10/12 (Report of War Vessel passing EMPIRE PUMA whilst in Convoy) Have interrogated master of EMPIRE KITE and NEURALIA only ships from H.X. 90 in port and they have no information as to incident. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1625/13 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

1554 — D.F., probable U-Boat 55.50 N., 20.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1615/13)

1918 — S/M reported 02.06 N., 22.00 W., at 1818/13 G.M.T. (C. in C., S.A. 1842/13)

1857 — 49.50 N., 20.55 W., (ORARI torpedoed) Convoy S.L. 57 is to keep well clear to westward. (C. in C., W.A., to CANTON, 2342/13)

1227 — 55°-56° N., 16.30- 19° W., indefinite (D.S. 466)

Search W. Approaches — Discontinue hunt at 1730 at which time WRESTLER and JERSEY are to rendezvous as arranged by JERSEY. LE TRIOMPHANT is to proceed in execution of my 1632/11.
JERSEY and WRESTLER are to proceed to cover shipping in the channel between Lizard and Start Point.
JERSEY continue patrol until necessary to have to return to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1254/13 to LE TRIOMPHANT, JERSEY, WRESTLER)

A/S Trawlers and yachts are hunting U-Boat off North Coast of Cornwall. KASHMIR and three destroyers are joining themselves from Northward tonight. Aircraft are co-operating. (C. in C., W.A., 1844/13 to TUNA)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian:- 1 or 2 near Azores.
1 bound for Gironde may be in about 45° N., 7° W.,
1 in area 53° N., to 54° N., 19° W., to 20° W
2 more in N.W. Approaches of which one may be W. of 20° W., in about 53° N.
German:- 1 in Cape de Verde Is. area or northbound therefrom.
1 off North coast of Cornwall
1 in about 52° N., 17° W., to 20° W.
2 between 54° N., and 55° 30' N., E. of 20°W one of which may have been about 55° 30' N., 17° W. at 1227/13.
1 in area off Bloody Foreland.
1 southbound in about 53° N., 12° W. may be slightly damaged.
1 may still be between 58° N., and 59° N., about 10° W.
Possibly 1 between 59° N., and 60° N., W.of 15° W. (D.D.I.C. 1312/13)

(801)

MOST SECRET.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland.
Fishing in Prohibited Areas.

My 1949/7. Add as follows to para. 3 (Head of M.1139/14 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.

Motor Ships on East Coast.

My 2212/13 Admiralty Agreement for coasting and ocean-going motor ships to proceed may be assumed to have been given unless specific signals to the contrary for named ships are made by the Admiralty. (D.T.D. 1635/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

Cancellation of Distress Messages.

Admiralty message D.V. Cases have occurred of doubt as to whether cancellation of a Q.R. or S. distress message was genuine or whether the signal cancelling the distress message was originated by the enemy.

2. As an additional check therefore a ship which has made a distress message of the above type which she wishes to cancel is to carry out the following procedure:-

(a) Cancel the distress message in Plain Language as at present.
(b) About one hour later transmit a coded message cancelling the original report.

3. This message (b) should be prefixed "DR" and whenever possible a different operator should transmit it and the note of the transmitter should be altered in order to reduce the risk of compromising the ships secret call sign. (A.Z.W.S.T. 1949/14 to British M/V's.) D.S.D. 103.

Clyde.
Docking.
Situation.

Apart from small ships, 4 destroyers in dock, 4 others up river waiting. At least 4 others at Tail of Bank require docking. SUSSEX, SUFFOLK, HECLA and MANCHESTER CITY, should all be docked this month. FIJI and WORCESTER SHIRE will also require docking soon. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2336/14 to Adty.)

DELUGE.

Defence of U.K.
At 1130/14. (D.C.1135/14) At 2330/14. D.C. 2336/14.)
Reference Air Ministry P.C.6. 1040/13.

MOST SECRET.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

DELUGE.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. Contd.
QUEEN ELIZABETH will arrive Rosyth for docking 15th December and as far as can be foreseen there will be at least one capital ship present until mid February. Request arrangements obtaining while KING GEORGE V was in dock may continue until arrangements discussed at recent meeting of Recognition Committee come into force. (A.C.N.S.H. 1307/14 to Air Ministry.)
Your 1212/11. Understood retention of Bty again under consideration and therefore arrangements for relief of R.M. personnel held up. Relief can be arranged at short notice as soon as decision regarding guns received. (Hofor, London 1805/14 to Adty.)

Movements.

SALADIN. SARDONYX. Expect arrive 1030. (SALADIN 0831/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1251/14.)

FURIOUS. Unable to enter harbour, owing to gale. Delay at least 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0850/14.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. My 2150/13. EXMOOR and BRILLIANT have now joined and 2nd Division Destroyers hve been despatched. (QUEEN ELIZABETH 0945/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) 1 Battleship, 4 Destroyers, 260° Rudh Hunish 5 miles, steering 030 at 1455. (C.G.Kyle 1500/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) A/C. reports Q. ELIZABETH in 57° 9'4° W. at 1325. (C. in C. Rosyth 1650/14 to Adty.)

WOLFE CHITRAL. F.O.C.N.P. 1000/12. Two destroyers to sailed to escort, as required by F.O.C.N.P (C. in C. H.F. 1057/14 to RAD.HF.) CHITRAL arrived Reykjavik (F.O. Iceland 1612/14.) Sailed WOLFE at 1600/14. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1615/14.)

BONAVENTURE. Request you sail for Clyde PM/16. C. in C. WA. 1145/14.)

TARTAR GEVERN) My 1822/13. Delayed sailing 24 hours by weather. (C. in C. W.A. 1145/14.)

NELSON. Your 1036/13 and Adty 2120/13. If preferred, can be docked at about 0900/23 if draught not more than 32½ feet and ship upright. (A.S.Rosyth 1229/14 to C. in C. HF.) Will arrive to dock 23/12. (C. in C. HF. 1905/14.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMAND.

War Diary.

Movements. Contd.

RAMILLIES, ARGUS, CALIFORNIA, CAIRO, ST. LAURENT, SELENA, COSSACK, HIGH.	Arrived Clyde.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1410/11

Movements.(2).

14th A/B. Striking Force.	Sailed as by F.O.C.N.F. 0920/13. E.T.A. 24/12. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1417/14.)
VENOMOUS.	C. in C. W.A. 1055/14. E.T.A. 0730/15. (VENOMOUS 1500/14 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)
READING. RAMSEY.	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1530/14.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1536/14.)
KELVIN.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1600/14
M.L. 124.	Sailed E.T.A. Milford Haven 1000/15. (N.O.I.C.Belfast 1600/14.
Town-class Destroyer.	It is essential that a Town Class destroyer should be made available for at least four days for first of Class Torpedo Discharge Trials at Weymouth as soon as possible. Suggested BRIGHTON be detailed. (D.O.D. H. 1601/14. to C. in C.W. D.O.D.(H.)
M.T.B. 104.	Cancel my 1834/13. Request you will arrange to send M.T.B.104 with crew to Greenock forthwith. She should be given priority over movement of 55ft. M.T.Bs. (A.C.N.S. F. 1602/14 to C in C. Nore.)
SCOTT.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1615/14
QUORN.	Sailed 1613. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1619/14.)
RAMILLIES. FERNIE, CATTISTOCK. HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND.	Intend sail at 0700/15 for Plymouth as by C. in C.W.A. 2336/13, to arrive in Position stated at 1030/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1623/14.)
M.L. 162.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1706/14.)
FERNIE, CATTISTOCK, HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1707/14.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements 3.

WALKER. Arrived 1745/14. (C.N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1807/14.)

M.A/S.B's. Sailing date. 355. Your 1516/13. Letter is being forwarded proposing 10th January in order that slipping and refitting programme now arranged can be completed. All boats will then be ready for service. At present only one boat is available. It is strongly recommended that the whole Flotilla is transferred on the same date.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1846/14. to C. in C. W.A.)

SKATE. Arrived from Belfast. (N.O.I.C.Londonderry 1950/14.)

TRIUMPHANT. Arrived Clyde. (C. in C.W.A. 1954/14.)

SOUTHDOWN. BRILLIANT. EXMOOR. PYTCHLEY. On completing present duty SOUTHDOWN and BRILLIANT to Scapa. Exmoor and PYTCHLEY to Rosyth for boiler cleaning. (R.A.D. H.F. 2152/14.)

KINGFISHER. To be lent for duty with D.C.O. for 5 days beginning 15/12. (V.C.N.S. 2215/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

M.T.B. 215. Arrived 2217. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2244/14.)

29th A/S. Striking Force. If not in contact and no further information by dark to-night 29th A/S Striking Force and RUBY proceed to Dartmouth, JASPER proceed to Plymouth arriving in position 180° Rame Chapel 2.2. miles at 1030/15.
(C. in C. W.A. 1155/14.)

Operations.

Sweep by M.T.B's. Arrived M.T.B's 29,32,34, at 1010. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1032/14.) Sweep carried out fom Thornton Ridge to Spleet Channel and back to Ostend. Thick fog off Flushing which cleared off Ostend. Nothing sighted. (C. in C. Nore 1220/14. to Adty.)

Western Channel Patrol. If not in contact and no further information available discontinue hunt in time to be off Lands End by 1900/14, and then patrol between Lizard and Start Point to cover merchant shipping proceeding westward.
Return to Plymouth by 1030/15 being in position 180° Rame Chapel 2.2 miles at this time.
(C. in C. W.A. 1200/14. to KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd.)

Operation SPECIMEN. To keep clear of S.L.57 steer as follows. C. in C. W.A. 1233/14 to WILD SWAN). My 1140/13. Onward Route for S.L.57 as follows. (C. in C.W.A. 1246/14 to PEGASUS, WILD SWAN.)

Operation. F.V.I. Cancelled tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1731/14.)

Operation. My 0210/14 and 1200/14. Operation completed. Request cover for 4 Destroyers from daylight to arrival Plymouth.

MAJOR. E.T.A. 1030/15. (C. in C.W.A. 1920/14 to H.Q.F.C.)

OPERATION IN Mediterranean. Adty. 2200/12. KASHONA and ESKIMO detailed. (R.A.D. 2345/14.

Submarines. 1. ~~Contd.~~

Bay of Biscay. (A). There is a possibility that enemy accomodation transport may leave Bordeaux for Gijon.

(B). UPHOLDER proceed with despatch to patrol position 043° 44' N. 005° 32' W. THUNDERBOLT patrol vicinity 045° 34' N. 001° 34' USK 045° 21'N. 001° 56' and UNIQUE 045° 10'N.002° 19' W. USK and UNIQUE should proceed with despatch up to meridian 004° W. (VAS. 0304/14.)
Request Bombing Restrictions from 0600 to 1800/14 in following area.(V.A.S.0331/14 to M.Q.C.C.
My 0304 and 0306. Object of submarines off Loire and Gironde to attack, and then report enemy transports. Object of UPHOLDER to attack and then report enemy transports approaching Gijon in convoy from North Eastwards. UPHOLDER not to infringe Spanish Territoril Waters and great care to be taken not to interfere with Spanish Coastal Trade.(V.A.S.0332/14.)

My 1918/13. Amend as follows.(VAS.0442/14.)

My 0304/14. Amend position to read USK 045° 05' 002° 32' W. UNIQUE 044° 40' 003° 18' THUNDERBOLT may withdraw to south westward keeping at least 20 miles from position of USK should situation demand it. (V.A.S. 1047/14 to U.S.K.,UNIQUE.)

V.A. (S) 0304/14 and my 0958/12. THUNDERBOLT is to remain on patrol until after dark 16th December and is not to report until west of 005°. TUNA is to remain until 1700/17 position 045° 32' 003° 05'

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Bay of Biscay. Submarines 1 Contd.

when she is to proceed to patrol vicinity of 045° 34' 001° 34' W without awaiting report from THUNDERBOLT. TUNA patrol in accordance with V.A.(S) 0332 and 1047/14.(Capt. S.2. 1401/14 to TUNA, THUNDERBOLT.)

Submarines 2 Contd.

WHITE BEAR) TUNA. Your 1609/13. WHITE BEAR and TUNA parted company at 0200/14 5 miles South of Wolf Rock. (WHITE BEAR 0745/14 to Capt. S.2.)

PROTEUS. Estimated in 43° N. 12° 40'W at 0800/15. Route to Portsmouth.(V.A.S.1558/14.)

GREENOCK AREA. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1717/14.)

POSITIONS. For following 24 hours at 0800/15. (V.A.S. 1726/14.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. MUGGY and SYDERO cancelled today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0906/14.) HORNLI,SA.2, SA.3, all cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/14.) 2 A/S Patrols, one surface H/C. East, one A/S sweep West. Covered from 2° W to 7° W.(200 Group 1735/14 to Air Ministry.)

BORDEAUX. LORIENT. To be attacked tonight. (H.Q.C.C.1236/14 to 16 Group, Thorney Island) (H.Q.C.C.1237/14 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Operation. YOUTH & BEAUTY. As in H.Q.C.C. Letter S.7017/22/1/ Plans dated 7/12/40 to 18 Group only. To be carried out on Night 14/15 or on first later night when weather suitable. (H.Q.C.C. 1238/14 to 18 Group, Lenchars, Wick.)

Bremen Wilhelmshaven. Bombed during night 13/14. (H.Q.B.C. 1920/14.)

Hatston. Admiralty message 1931/9. Night art and alt at Hatstone is undesirable as it involves formation flying in the defended area. Desirable therefore, that 816 Squadrons and 825 Squadrons should practice night art and alt before

1/12/40 to 31/12/40 cont on K-11-A.

ENDING OF

REEL K-10-B

DOCUMENTS • PHOTOGRAPHED

1/Nov./40 to 31 Dec. 40. cont from K-9-H.

1/12/40 to 31/12/40 cont from K-11-H

ONI

DATE: 17, April, 1946

MACH. NO. 1701

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: SKAggs + Powell